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7/24/2004

04-0624-2

EEVET. LEWIS, Co. Clerk  
BY [Signature]  
DEPUTY CLERK

## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

**To:** County Clerk, Sonoma County  
2300 County Center Drive, B177  
Santa Rosa, California 95403

**From:** Sonoma County Regional Parks  
2300 County Center Drive, Suite 120A  
Santa Rosa, California 95403

State of California Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044  
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, is filing this Notice of Determination in compliance with §21108 of the Public Resources Code.

### RIVERFRONT PARK PROJECT

#### Project Title

1250 2004042051 Michelle Julene 707/565-3962  
**State Clearinghouse Number Contact Person Area Code / Telephone Number**

7 JV 7821 Eastside Road

#### Project Location

19654 Unincorporated Vicinity of Healdsburg Sonoma  
**Project Location - City Project Location - County**

**Project Description:** The proposed project generally includes adding approximately 305 acres of land to the Regional Parks system in a five-phased project. The first phase includes vehicular and equestrian parking areas, improvements to an existing access road, development of a new access road, renovation of an existing group picnic area, portable restrooms, development of approximately 2.3 miles of trail on existing trail sections and former service roads. Subsequent phases would include an entry kiosk with utilities, picnic areas, non-motorized boat launch access points: two on Lake Benoit and one on the Russian River, additional parking areas and access road improvements, additional portable restrooms near the respective boat access points, additional trail improvements, enhancement of the existing marsh on Lake Wilson, and interpretive signage.

This is to advise that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Master Plan for the above-described project and approved the above-described project on June 22, 2004 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.

This is to certify that the final environmental document, with comments and responses and record of project approval, is available to the general public at the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department main office.

[Signature]  
**Philip Sales**

**Title:** Park Planning and Design Administrator  
Sonoma County Regional Parks

**Date:** June 24, 2004

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

240314



STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT  
DFG 753.5a (9-03)

240314

Lead Agency: Sonoma County Parks Regional Parks Date: June 24, 2008  
County / State Agency of Filing: Sonoma County Document No. 06-00062  
Project Title: RIVERFRONT PARK PROJECT  
Project Applicant Name: Sonoma County Regional Parks Phone Number: 707-525-8822  
Project Applicant Address: 2300 City Ctr Dr. Ste 120A Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Project Applicant (check appropriate box): Local Public Agency ☒ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐  
State Agency ☐ Private Entity ☐

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- ( ) Environmental Impact Report \$850.00 \$
- (x) Negative Declaration \$1,250.00 \$ by Journal Voucher
- ( ) Application Fee Water Diversion (State Water Resources Control Board Only) \$850.00 \$
- ( ) Projects Subject to Certified Regulatory Programs \$850.00 \$
- (x) County Administrative Fee 3500 \$25.00 \$ EXEMPT
- ( ) Project that is exempt from fees

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 1250.00

Signature and title of person receiving payment: Barbara E. Youngling  
WHITE-PROJECT APPLICANT YELLOW-DFG/FASB PINK-LEAD AGENCY GOLDENROD-STATE AGENCY OF FILING



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Arnold  
Schwarzenegger  
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Jan Boel  
Acting Director

May 11, 2004

Michelle Julene  
Sonoma County Regional Parks  
2300 County Center Drive, #120A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Subject: Riverfront Park Project  
SCH#: 2004042051

Dear Michelle Julene:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on May 10, 2004, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2004042051  
**Project Title** Riverfront Park Project  
**Lead Agency** Sonoma County Regional Parks

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**Type** Neg Negative Declaration  
**Description** Develop public parks previously used for gravel mining, featuring trails, picnic areas, non-motorized boat parking.

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**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Michelle Julene  
**Agency** Sonoma County Regional Parks  
**Phone** 707-565-3962 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 2300 County Center Drive, #120A  
**City** Santa Rosa **State** CA **Zip** 95403

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**Project Location**

**County** Sonoma  
**City** Healdsburg, Windsor  
**Region**  
**Cross Streets** Eastside Road  
**Parcel No.** Various  
**Township** 8 N **Range** 9 W **Section** **Base** MDB

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**Proximity to:**

**Highways**  
**Airports**  
**Railways**  
**Waterways** Russian River  
**Schools**  
**Land Use** Land Intensive Agriculture - 60 acres  
Sonoma County Agriculture, Preservation and Open Space

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**Project Issues** Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Noise; Public Services; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife

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**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 3; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 4; Integrated Waste Management Board; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 1; Department of Toxic Substances Control; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

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**Date Received** 04/09/2004 **Start of Review** 04/09/2004 **End of Review** 05/10/2004



# **Riverfront Park Project**

## **Master Plan and Initial Study**

**March 2004**



### **Prepared By:**

Sonoma County Regional Parks Department  
2300 County Center Drive, #120A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 565-2041

Jim R. Angelo, Director  
Philip Sales, Park Planning & Design Administrator  
Joseph Kase, Project Planner II  
Michelle Julene, Environmental Specialist

**POSTING AND REVIEW PERIOD: April 12 – May 14, 2004**

# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS  
PHONE: (707) 565-2041

2300 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 120a

SANTA ROSA, CA 95403  
FAX: (707) 565-3642

An Initial Study of environmental impact has been prepared by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department and considered by the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee for the following project:

## RIVERFRONT PARK PROJECT

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed project is located at 7821 Eastside Road, Healdsburg.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed project generally includes adding approximately 305 acres of land to the Regional Parks system in a five-phased project. The first phase includes vehicular and equestrian parking areas, improvements to an existing access road, development of a new access road, renovation of an existing group picnic area, portable restrooms, development of approximately 2.3 miles of trail on existing trail sections and former service roads. Subsequent phases would include an entry kiosk with utilities, picnic areas, non-motorized boat launch access points: two on Lake Benoist and one the Russian River, additional parking areas and access road improvements, additional portable restrooms near the respective boat access points, additional trail improvements, enhancement of the existing marsh on Lake Wilson, and interpretive signage.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The purpose of the proposed project is to develop Riverfront Park, a regional recreation area in northern Sonoma County. The proposed Riverfront Park addresses public parkland needs in the North County as identified in the 1989 Sonoma County General Plan.

**FINDING:** On the basis of the Initial Study and the recommendation of the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee, the Park Planning and Design Administrator of the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department has determined that with the incorporation of the mitigation measures proposed in the Initial Study, the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

**COMMENT PERIOD:** The proposed Negative Declaration is available for review and comment, along with the Master Plan and Initial Study, at the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department. Written comments should be addressed to Michelle Julene, Environmental Specialist at Sonoma County Regional Parks. The address and phone number are listed above. The posting and review period for the Proposed Negative Declaration is:

**April 12 – May 14, 2004**

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:** The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (Board) is the decision-making body responsible for adopting the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and approving the proposed project.

The Board will consider adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration & Master Plan, and project approval on: **June 22, 2004**

Please call Philip Sales or Michelle Julene at the number listed above if you have questions regarding this Notice.

**Posting and mailing date: April 12, 2004**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Project Information

Introduction .....	1-1
Project Purpose .....	1-1
Project Goals .....	1-1
Project Location .....	1-2
Project Background.....	1-2
Related and Possible Future Projects .....	1-3
Existing Site Conditions .....	1-3
Development Schedule and Funding .....	1-3
Project Description.....	1-3
Phase I – Redwood Grove Picnic Area and Lake Trail .....	1-4
Phase II – Redwood Grove and Entrance Improvements .....	1-7
Phase III – Lake Picnic Areas and Boating Access .....	1-9
Phase IV – Marsh Trail and Enhancement.....	1-11
Phase V – River Access .....	1-11

## Public Participation

Property Tours .....	1-13
Notice of Preparation Public Comment Period and Scoping Meeting.....	1-13
Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee Meeting.....	1-14
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors .....	1-14

## Environmental Setting

Aesthetics .....	2-1
Agricultural Resources .....	2-1
Air Quality .....	2-1
Biological Resources .....	2-2
Cultural Resources.....	2-5
Geology and Soils .....	2-5
Hazards and Hazardous Materials.....	2-7
Hydrology and Water Quality.....	2-9
Land Use and Planning .....	2-9
Mineral Resources .....	2-10
Noise .....	2-10
Population and Housing .....	2-12
Public Services.....	2-12
Recreation.....	2-12
Transportation and Traffic.....	2-13
Utilities and Service Systems.....	2-15

## Regulatory Setting

United States Army Corps of Engineers.....	2-16
United States Environmental Protection Agency .....	2-16
United States Fish and Wildlife Service .....	2-16
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Fisheries .....	2-17
California Department of Fish and Game .....	2-17
California Department of Health Services .....	2-17
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region .....	2-17
California State Lands Commission .....	2-18
Marin-Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District.....	2-18
Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District.....	2-18
Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works .....	2-18
Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department.....	2-18

## Initial Study Checklist

Initial Study Checklist.....	3-1
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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Mitigation Monitoring Program

Appendix B – Notice of Preparation & Scoping Meeting Correspondence

## **LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES**

### **Figures**

- Figure 1 – Site Location Map
- Figure 2 – Preliminary Master Plan Map, all phases
- Figure 3 – Preliminary Master Plan Map, Phase I
- Figure 4 – Park Entrance Detail
- Figure 5 – Redwood Grove Detail
- Figure 6 – Preliminary Master Plan Map, Phase II
- Figure 7 – Preliminary Master Plan Map, Phase III
- Figure 8 – Preliminary Master Plan Map, Phase IV
- Figure 9 – Preliminary Master Plan Map, Phase V
- Figure 10 – Biotic Resources

## **Project Information**

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Sonoma County is the lead agency for the proposed Riverfront Park Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This document has been prepared by Sonoma County Regional Parks Department (Regional Parks) staff. The document is intended to provide a clear understanding of the proposed project and of the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project for decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, and the public. If the analysis concludes that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project may cause a significant effect on the environment, a Negative Declaration can be prepared. Otherwise, an Environmental Impact Report is required. The Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee makes this determination for Regional Park's projects.

### **PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of the proposed project is to develop the proposed Riverfront Park, a regional recreation area in northern Sonoma County. The proposed Riverfront Park addresses public parkland needs in the North County area as identified in the 1989 Sonoma County General Plan.

### **PROJECT GOALS**

The following eight goals were identified in the Riverfront Regional Park Feasibility Study:<sup>1</sup>

1. Provide additional quality recreation opportunities to visitors and residents of Sonoma County of Sonoma
2. Create a park facility that is sensitive to the unique river environment and blends well with the natural landscape character of the site
3. Develop a circulation system that functions well with the traffic requirements of Eastside Road
4. Provide a facility design that minimizes, to the greatest extent possible, maintenance and operations expenses
5. Encourage recreational uses that contribute revenue to offset the operations and maintenance costs of the facility
6. Efficiently organize and develop recreational uses on the site to maximize the existing habitat restoration efforts
7. Provide opportunities for nature education and interpretation through the use of self-guided interpretive trails

In addition to these seven goals, the Regional Parks Department is adding an eighth goal, which was not previously included in the Feasibility Study:

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<sup>1</sup> Sonoma County Regional Parks Department. October 2002.  
*Riverfront Park Project*

8. Develop Park facilities that do not interfere with potential Sonoma County Water Agency's potential future water supply facilities on the north end of the property and are consistent with the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's Conservation Easement

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project site is located at 7821 Eastside Road<sup>2</sup>, in unincorporated Sonoma County. The site is south of the City of Healdsburg and west of the Town of Windsor. Eastside Road is generally adjacent to the easterly property boundary and is intersected by Windsor River Road to the north of the project site and intersected by Trenton-Healdsburg Road to the south of the project site. Vineyards are adjacent to the northerly and southerly boundaries. The Russian River borders the property on the westerly boundary. The majority of the project site is mapped as within the 100-year flood zone. Figure 1 is the Project Location Map.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The property had historically been used for terrace-pit gravel mining by Kaiser Sand and Gravel and more recently by Hanson Mid-Pacific. The property features three lakes that are reclaimed gravel pits. The Agency, as the property owner, is completing the remaining obligations of the Master Reclamation Plan. The environmental impacts of the Master Reclamation Plan have been evaluated programmatically in accordance with CEQA in the 1994 Sonoma County Aggregate Resources Management Plan and Environmental Impact Report<sup>3</sup> and in project-level detail in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the 1995 Revised Master Reclamation Plan for Kaiser Sand and Gravel.<sup>4</sup> The 1980 ARM Plan documents recommended that the mined gravel pits be reclaimed to their pre-mining land use and utilized as wildlife preservation. Since that time, the Regional Parks Department and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors considered recreational use of the project area, as demonstrated by the following summary. In 1987, the Regional Parks Department prepared the Windsor Riverfront Park Study that assessed the recreational potential of the proposed Riverfront Park property. In 1988, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Minute Order No. 88-1103 directed the Regional Parks Department to develop an overview regarding the positive and potential negative effects for aqua-cultural or recreational uses along a section of the Russian River that included the proposed Riverfront Park property. The 1989 Sonoma County General Plan showed a future park in the general location of the proposed Riverfront Park project. In 1991, Kaiser Sand and Gravel prepared a draft Windsor Lakes Plan that proposed public recreation over an area that included the proposed Riverfront Park property, which was subsequently reflected in the 1994 ARM Plan. In 1994, the Sonoma County Planning Department (now incorporated into the Permit and Resource Management Department) requested the Regional Parks Department to review a reduced version of the draft Windsor Lakes Plan and in 1996, the Regional Parks Department prepared a Regional Park Feasibility Study regarding the Kaiser Sand and Gravel Property (Windsor Riverfront Park). On August 21, 2003, the General Plan 2020 Citizens' Advisory Committee approved a request to change the land use designation and zoning of the proposed Riverfront Park

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<sup>2</sup> APNs: 110-210-010; 110-210-011; 066-230-069; 066-230-080; 066-230-081; and 066-230-083.

<sup>3</sup> Approved by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors by Resolution No. 94-1569.

<sup>4</sup> Approved by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors by Resolution No. 96-0969.

properties and amend the land use map accordingly to reflect the intended public park development on these properties.

On October 9, 2002, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (“District”) and the Sonoma County Water Agency (“Agency”) purchased the property. The acquisition was a cooperative project among the District, the Agency, and the County of Sonoma. Under the terms of the acquisition, the District and the Agency shared the cost of the purchase. A cooperative agreement among the District, the Agency, and the County of Sonoma provides that the Agency will own and maintain the property and Regional Parks will operate and maintain the park facilities. The District retains a Conservation Easement over the property that allows for public outdoor recreation, habitat and resource enhancement, and possible future water supply and water education uses (see below).

### **RELATED AND POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECTS**

The Sonoma County Water Agency is implementing a reclamation plan separate from development of the Riverfront Park Project. The purposes of the reclamation plan are to restore the property to a more natural condition and reclaim wildlife habitat. The reclamation plan will be implemented around Lake McLaughlin and on the west and south shores of Lake Wilson and will include re-grading to achieve a more natural topography and revegetation with native plant species. The potential environmental impacts associated with the reclamation plan have been evaluated in accordance with CEQA in the 1994 Sonoma County Resources Aggregate Resources Management Plan and Environmental Impact Report<sup>5</sup> and in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the 1995 Revised Master Reclamation Plan of Kaiser Sand and Gravel.<sup>6</sup>

Future SCWA projects on the project site may include development of water education and water supply facilities. If and when the SCWA identifies a water supply or water education project on the project site, it will initiate preparation of appropriate CEQA compliance documents. The Riverfront Park elements presented in Phase V may be modified depending on the development of water supply and educational facilities.

### **EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS**

The site topography is relatively level, having gradually three-to-five percent slopes down to the Russian River. The project area includes three former gravel pits that have been reclaimed as lakes. The lakes, which total approximately 132 acres, are commonly referred to as Lake Benoist, Lake Wilson, and Lake McLaughlin. Existing unpaved maintenance roads surround the lakes. Additional features of the project area include a redwood grove, marshland, and river frontage. The redwood grove, that is approximately 15 acres of the site, features a large picnic area, volleyball court, and horseshoe pits. The marshland is approximately 23 acres and is the result of reclamation work by Hanson Aggregates on Lake Wilson. River frontage is approximately 5,500 lineal feet.

### **DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE AND FUNDING**

The proposed park development plan consists of five separate phases, which are summarized below. Phase I

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<sup>5</sup> Approved by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors by Resolution No. 94-1569.



improvements are scheduled for development following the CEQA process and project approval. This first phase may be developed in late 2004. Phase I would be constructed, in part, through grant funding from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The remaining phases would be developed as funding becomes available. All phases would be developed in cooperation with the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. Some elements, particularly those presented in Phase V, may need to be modified depending on the future water supply facilities described under the heading: "Related and Possible Future Projects."

The Regional Parks Department will review subsequent phases of the Riverfront Park project for the types of changes that could result in the need to prepare a subsequent or supplemental CEQA document or addendum and will prepare the required document if needed. This type of review is outlined in Sections 115162 - 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Regional Parks Department will obtain all applicable permits from the appropriate regulatory agency for all phases of the Riverfront Park Project.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

All core facilities, such as the parking areas, restrooms, and picnic areas will include access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Portable and permanent restrooms would include hand-washing facilities. Trash cans would be rodent-proof. Trees, shrubs, and native grasses are proposed in various areas of the park, restoration would occur to restore areas that would be disturbed by park development to naturalized conditions. Erosion control material would be used to stabilize soils and slopes disturbed during construction. Informational signage would be placed on site and at major intersections leading to the site that identifies the direction to park facilities. Please refer to Figure 2 – Preliminary Master Plan for an overview of all five phases of proposed park development.

**Phase I – Redwood Grove Picnic Area and Lake Trail:** Phase I improvements would provide renovation of the Redwood Grove Picnic Area, trail development, vehicular access to the Redwood Grove Picnic Area, vehicle and equestrian trailer parking areas, and habitat restoration. Fencing, gates, and signage would also be included. Please refer to Figure 3 for an overview of Phase I proposed park development and Figures 4 for the Park Entrance Detail and Figure 5 for the Redwood Grove Detail.

- ❖ **Redwood Grove Picnic Area Improvements:** The site includes a total of 13 picnic tables, 9 in the group area and 4 individual sites. The existing group and family picnic areas would be repaired. Five additional individual picnic tables and bike racks would be added to the existing Redwood grove picnic area. Portable restrooms would be included in Phase I. A permanent restroom is proposed in Phase II.
- ❖ **Trail Development:** Two trails are proposed for development in Phase I.
  - **The Redwood Grove West Trail** is an existing trail, approximately 0.10 miles in length. Improvements would include minor trail repair. The Redwood Grove trail would be a pedestrian-access only trail providing ADA accessibility. Trail width would generally be 36-

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<sup>6</sup> Approved by Sonoma County Board of Supervisors by Resolution No. 96-0969.

inches wide and up to 60 inches wide in some sections to provide wheelchair landing areas and turnouts. The Redwood Grove Trail would be composed of native material and compacted gravel.

- **The Lake Trail:** In Phase I, a section of the Lake Trail would be developed. The section would be approximately 2.0 miles total length, would begin at the Redwood Grove parking area, and would continue around Lake Benoist. The trail alignment would be on or adjacent to the existing service road. The Lake Trail would be a “multi-use” trail, generally 10 feet in width, and composed of compacted gravel.

Regional Parks service vehicles and emergency service vehicles would be able to use the Lake Trail for access around Lake Benoist. The Lake Trail will not provide public vehicle access in Phase I. In Phase III, the section of the Lake Trail between Lake Benoist and Lake Wilson, would include public vehicle access (see Phase III for description).

Trail structures, such as culverts, armored crossings, puncheons, and/or bridges may be required to accommodate drainage issues in specific locations. Two main areas of drainage crossings are described below.

- **Lake Benoist – Lake Wilson Spillway:** A storm drain culvert crossing would be installed at the existing spillway between Lake Benoist and Lake Wilson. The culvert would be approximately 48 inches in diameter and 40 lineal feet in length. The culvert would be overflow with standard headwalls at both the inlet and the outlet.<sup>7</sup> In this section, the multi-use trail and the paved public vehicle access road, proposed for development in Phase III, would be shared. The total width of this section would be 40 feet, including a separation of the vehicle access and the trail section. The paved vehicle road sections would be a total of 18 feet in width and would have one-foot wide gravel shoulders. The trail section would be a maximum of 10 feet in width and would be constructed of compacted gravel.
- **Lake Benoist - Russian River Rock Weir:** An existing rock weir separates Lake Benoist from the Russian River and is approximately 200 feet in length, 50 feet in width, and 20 feet in height. The Lake Trail would traverse this area by developing a seasonal path set away from the rock weir. The seasonal path would be approximately 10 feet in width and would have a rock base to reduce erosion when the weir is flowing above a 10-year storm event. Two 36-inch diameter storm drain culverts, approximately 30 lineal feet in length, would be installed in two separate locations to handle low flows.

Several additional culvert crossings are proposed along the Lake Trail. All proposed culverts are listed in Table 1 and shown on Figure 2. Crossing numbers designated by a number only are for major tributary streams. Crossing numbers designated by the letter “A” are

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<sup>7</sup> Green Valley Consulting Engineers. Riverfront Regional Park Hydrology Study. October 23, 2003.  
*Riverfront Park Project*

minor, localized drainage features. All culverts would be constructed using rock headwalls and associated rock slope protection to minimize erosion and protect slope stability.

Table 1: Proposed Culvert Crossings				
Crossing #	Replacement?	# Culverts	Proposed Diameter	Proposed Length
1	No	1	30 inches	40 feet
1A	No	1	12 inches	30 feet
2	Yes	2	48 inches	40 feet
2A	No	1	18 inches	30 feet
3	Yes	2	36 inches	40 feet
3A	No	1	18 inches	30 feet
4	No	1	36 inches	40 feet
4A	No	1	18 inches	30 inches
5	No	2	36 inches	40 feet
5A	No	1	12 inches	30 feet
6	No	1	36 inches	30 feet
7	No	1	48 inches	40 feet

- ❖ **No Parking Signs:** No Parking signs would be installed along Eastside Road for approximately 3,000 linear feet on both sides of the street.
- ❖ **Park Entrance Road:** The park entrance road would begin at the entrance to the project area off Eastside Road. The Lake Drive would provide vehicular access southerly along an existing 0.20-mile road and would lead to the proposed Redwood Grove Picnic Area. Proposed improvements include the repair and asphalt overlay of an existing 24-foot wide access road, and installation of approximately 1,200 linear feet of split-rail fencing.
- ❖ **Equestrian Parking:** Parking for approximately five vehicles with trailers would be provided along the entrance road near the entry kiosk. The parking area would consist of parallel parking spaces. The dimensions of the parking area are 10-feet wide by 200-feet long, a total of approximately 0.10 acre. The parking area would be constructed of compacted rock. A turn around area for trailers would be located at the juncture of the park entrance road with Grove Drive. Native trees and shrubs, and fencing, would be installed along the property line. Irrigation would be provided in Phase II. The plants would be hand-watered in the interim period.
- ❖ **Overflow Parking:** Parking for approximately 10 vehicles would be developed adjacent to the park entrance road near the entry kiosk and equestrian parking area. The dimensions of the parking area

are 10-feet wide by 250-feet long, a total of approximately 0.1 acre. The parking area would be constructed of compacted rock. Parking would be parallel to the entrance road. Split-rail fencing would be installed along the property line in Phase 1. Landscape planting with California native trees and shrubs would be installed in Phase II to provide visual screening and a physical buffer between the parking area and the adjacent agricultural property. Native trees and shrubs, and fencing, would be installed along the property line. Irrigation would be provided in Phase II. The plants would be hand-watered in the interim period.

- ❖ **Redwood Grove Parking Area:** Parking for general public access would be developed near the Redwood Grove Picnic Area. The parking area would include 40 vehicle parking spaces on a compacted crushed rock base with two asphalt-paved areas to meet ADA standards. The Redwood Grove parking area is proposed at the southerly terminus of the proposed Lake Drive on a relatively flat area, the dimensions of which would be approximately 300 feet long and 80 feet wide. The vehicle access strip through the middle of the parking area would be paved. Split-rail fencing would be installed to define the parking area and establish the property line with the adjacent vineyard to the east. Native trees and shrubs would be installed along the property line, along with irrigation, in Phase II.
- ❖ **Emergency Services Access:** Two access points for emergency fire services would be provided at Riverfront Park. One access would be developed in Phase I at Lake Wilson, off the Lake Drive and Lake Trail. An emergency fire services access road and turnout would be constructed of compacted rock. The access road would be gated at the entrance, approximately 200 feet in length, between the Lake Drive and the top of bank of Lake Wilson, and 12 feet in width. Emergency fire services would be able to pull water from Lake Wilson from this access point (See Figure 4 Park Entrance Detail). Another emergency fire services access would be provided in Phase III at Lake Benoist. Please see the description for the East Boat Ramp under Phase III.
- ❖ **Lakeshore Restoration:** Native trees, shrubs, and native grasses would be planted along the lakeshore areas of Lake Wilson and Lake Benoist that may be disturbed during development of proposed park facilities. The purpose of the Lakeshore Restoration element is to enhance and restore existing riparian habitat in these areas.

**Phase II - Redwood Grove and Entrance Improvements:** Phase II improvements would include additional family picnic sites, trail development, an entry kiosk with utilities, a permanent restroom, tree planting and irrigation, and signage. Please refer to Figure 6 for an overview of Phase II proposed park development.

- ❖ **Redwood Grove Picnic Area:** Two additional individual picnic sites would be added to the existing Redwood grove picnic area.
- ❖ **Trail Improvements:** Three trail sections are proposed for development in Phase II.
  - **Lake Trail:** An additional section of the Lake Trail would be developed in Phase II, between the equestrian and overflow parking area and the Redwood Grove parking area. This trail

section would be approximately 0.20 mile in length, 10 feet in width, and constructed of crushed rock on a gravel base.

- **Redwood Grove East Trail:** The Redwood Grove East Trail would be hiking-only trail, developed between the Redwood Grove restroom and the section of the Lake Trail developed in Phase I. The trail would be approximately 0.15 mile in length. Trail width would generally be 36-inches to provide ADA compliance, and would be up to 60-inches in width to provide landing areas and turnouts for wheelchairs. The trail would be composed of compacted native material and gravel.
- **The Redwood Mountain Trail** would be a new trail, approximately 0.22-mile long. This trail would be a pedestrian-access only trail, composed of compacted native material. The trail would generally be approximately 36-inches wide, and would be up to 60-inches to provide landing areas and turnouts for wheelchairs. The Redwood Mountain Trail would begin at the Redwood Grove and would end at a scenic view area on the hilltop, an elevation increase of approximately 130 feet. This trail may offer interpretive signage. The trail would include a culvert to cross over a seasonal drainage in order to provide access to the proposed restroom, additional picnic areas, and the Redwood Mountain trailhead. The culvert crossing would be approximately 12 feet in width 40 feet in length. This culvert crossing would accommodate pedestrian as well as service and emergency vehicles.
- ❖ **Entry Kiosk:** An entry kiosk is proposed on the Park Entrance Road near the park entrance. The building would be constructed using colored, textured concrete or similar material. A vehicle turnaround would be located at the intersection past the entry kiosk to facilitate traffic movement at the entrance. Electricity and phone would be provided.
- ❖ **Redwood Grove Restroom:** A permanent restroom is proposed for development in the vicinity of the Redwood Grove picnic area. The floor elevation of the structure would be one foot above the 100-year flood water level. Flood level is 76 feet above sea level and the floor elevation of the structure would be located at 77 feet above sea level. The restroom and double-containment in-ground holding tanks would be designed to prevent the mixing of floodwaters with the contents of the holding tanks, and therefore would withstand the seasonal flooding that could affect the project area. The restroom building would be approximately 200 square feet in area and 12 feet in height. The building would be constructed using colored, textured concrete or similar material. The restroom would include one stall and wash area each, one male and one female, and would meet ADA accessibility requirements. The restroom would include low-flow water flush toilets. The low-flow water flush toilet design would provide flush toilets producing up to 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) of wastewater that would be connected by gravity piping to the in-ground holding tanks. Two in-ground holding tanks would be installed below ground. Each holding tank would be approximately 10,000 gallons in volume<sup>8</sup>, with approximate dimensions of 10 feet in depth, 10 feet in width, and 20 feet in

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<sup>8</sup> The holding tanks were sized by estimating peak use on a week-end summer day at a similar park facility at 300 persons.

length. Double containment would be established using the following method: excavate pit for tank placement and create forms for concrete, place the pre-fabricated holding tanks, pour concrete in place. The inlet for the holding tanks would be above the 10-year flood elevation, which is 69 feet above mean sea level. The holding tanks would be pumped out on a regular basis. The gated access road would extend from the Redwood Grove parking area. The access road would be approximately 200 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and constructed of compacted rock. The access road would require placement of twin culverts within an unnamed tributary. The culverts would each be approximately 30 inches in diameter and approximately 40 lineal feet in length. This design would provide an effective crossing during a 10-year storm event.

- ❖ **Utilities.** A water supply well would be developed in the vicinity of the Redwood Grove restroom to serve the restroom, provide drinking and irrigation water. The well would include an annular seal and would be sited a minimum of 100 feet from the 10-year flood line. Water lines for irrigation would extend to landscape planting areas along the Park Entrance Road, the Redwood Grove parking area, and the entry kiosk and to the tree planting areas associated with the Lake Benoist picnic areas in Phase III. Drinking water lines would extend to the Redwood Grove picnic area in Phase II and to the picnic areas proposed along Lake Benoist in Phase III. Drinking water lines would be protected from irrigation lines by a backflow preventor. The proposed well would be approximately 100 feet deep and 4 inches in diameter. A 5-horsepower, 120-volt single-phase pump with pressure tanks would be used. Pump rate would be approximately 23 – 30 gallons per minute. A pump-house would be developed in the vicinity of the restroom. The structure would be approximately 10 feet wide, 10 feet long, and 12 feet in height and constructed of textured, colored concrete or similar material. Licensed Regional Parks Department maintenance staff would conduct on-site chlorination, if necessary. No chemicals would be stored on-site. An electrical meter and phone drop box would be installed off of Eastside Road near the Redwood Grove area property line. The construction trenches for the pipelines would be approximately 2 feet in depth and 2 feet in width.

**Phase III – Lake Picnic Areas and Boating Access:** Phase III improvements would include development of two additional picnic areas, trail improvements, non-motorized boating access on the north side of Lake Benoist, parking areas, and vehicular access. Please refer to Figure 7 for an overview of Phase III proposed park development.

- ❖ **Picnic Area Improvements:** Two picnic areas are proposed between Lake Wilson and Lake Benoist, named the East Lake Benoist Picnic Area and the West Lake Benoist Picnic Area. Approximately 16 – 24 picnic tables would be installed between the two sites – each picnic table set on a compacted rock base. Both picnic areas would include one barbeque set on a concrete pad, one portable restroom, the extension of potable water for drinking fountains, and bike racks. Native trees, shrubs, and grasses would be planted at each picnic area. Water lines for drip irrigation would be extended from the well-house included in Phase II.

- ❖ **Trail Improvements:** Two trail sections are proposed for development in Phase III.
  - **Lower Lake Trail:** The Lower Lake Trail would be developed along the southerly and westerly boundary of Lake Benoist along an existing trail section, closer to the Lake Benoist shore than the Lake Trail proposed in Phase I. The Lower Lake Trail would connect with the Lake Trail in the vicinity of the existing rock weir. This would be a hiking-only trail, generally 36-inches in width, and up to 60-inches in width in certain sections to accommodate wheelchair-landing areas and turnouts. The trail would be composed of compacted native material and compacted rock.
  - **South River Access Trail:** The South River Access Trail would be developed between the West Boat Portage and the Russian River. This trail would provide hand-carry river access portage, generally for canoes and kayaks. The trail would be approximately 5 feet in width, 200 feet in length, and composed of native material or compacted gravel.
- ❖ **Non-motorized Boat Launch Access:** Two boat access areas are proposed on the north shore of Lake Benoist. The boat access would be signed as a “No Swimming” area.
  - **East Boat Ramp:** The east boat ramp would provide access for larger, non-motorized boats including sailboats. The east boat portage would be a concrete paved ramp, approximately 12 feet in wide, approximately 120 feet in length. The ramp would be approximately 14 percent slope and could be utilized for emergency fire access. A paved access road from Lake Drive would provide access to the boat ramp. The access road would be approximately 30 feet in length and 12 feet in width.
  - **West Boat Portage:** The west boat portage would provide access for canoes and kayaks. This portage would be approximately 6 feet in width, 100 feet in length, and constructed of rock base at a 5 percent slope.
- ❖ **Parking Area:** Approximately seventy compacted rock parking spaces would be developed near the vicinity of the boat access areas and picnic areas, 35 parking spaces at each location. Two paved ADA-compliant stalls would be provided at each parking area. Each parking area would include paved driving strips. Natural gravel filtration would be provided to protect surface waters from impacts associated with run-off. The parking areas would be graded to drain to drainage swales to be developed on the outside perimeter of the parking areas. The drainage swales would be seeded with native grasses. The West Lake Benoist parking area will ultimately flow to a culvert that would drain to Lake Benoist. An existing 12-inch diameter culvert would be replaced with an 18-inch diameter culvert, approximately 100 feet in length. Rock slope protection, approximately one ton at each end of the culvert, would be included to reduce erosion and to serve as an energy dissipater. The East Lake Benoist parking area would be approximately 220 feet in length and 150 feet in width. The West Lake Benoist parking area would be approximately 300 feet in length and 100 feet in width. The parking stalls would be constructed of compacted rock.

- ❖ **Vehicular Access:** Approximately 0.6 mile of paved roadway would be developed between the Redwood Grove parking area and the boat launch parking areas, adjacent to the Lake Trail. The Lake Drive vehicular access would be developed to fire safe standards, which would include approximately 20 feet of right-of-way, 18 feet of pavement, and one-foot gravel shoulders on each side of the paved roadway section.
- ❖ **Utilities:** A potable water line would be extended approximately 3,200 lineal feet from the Redwood Grove potable water well, developed in Phase II, to the East and West Lake Benoist Picnic Areas. The water would be used for landscape irrigation and drinking water to be included at each of the picnic areas. The construction trench would be approximately 2 feet deep and 2 feet wide.

**Phase IV– Marsh Trail and Enhancement:** Phase IV would develop access to the marsh area on the west side of Lake Wilson, including trails, interpretive signage, and marsh enhancement. Please refer to Figure 8 for an overview of Phase IV proposed park development.

- ❖ **Marsh Trail:** The Marsh Trail is proposed to provide access to the marsh. The Marsh Trail would be a hiking- only trail, approximately 0.4-mile in length, average approximately 36-inches in width to a maximum of 60-inches in width in sections to accommodate wheelchair-landing areas and turnouts. The trail would be composed of compacted native material. A boardwalk section would be included between the Marsh Trail and Lake Wilson. The boardwalk would be approximately 200 feet in length and a maximum of 60 inches in width. The Marsh Trail would be within the marsh area west of Lake Wilson.
- ❖ **Marsh Enhancement:** The existing marsh restoration would be supplemented by additional planting. Interpretive signage would also be included.

**Phase V– River Access:** Phase V improvements would develop access to the Russian River, including trail development and a boat portage. Improvements would include roadway improvements, additional parking, and portable restroom. The elements presented in this phase may be modified depending on the development of water supply and educational facilities by the Sonoma County Water Agency described under the heading “Related and Possible Future Projects.” Please refer to Figure 9 for an overview of Phase V proposed park development.

- ❖ **Trail Improvements:** Two trail sections are proposed for development in Phase V.
  - **River Trail:** The River Trail would be approximately 0.6 miles in length and would connect the Lake Trail to the northern boundary of the property, generally adjacent to the proposed River Drive. The River Trail would be a multi-use trail, approximately ten (10) feet in width, and composed of gravel. The River Trail would be located on or adjacent to the existing berm that separates the property from the Russian River.
  - **North River Access Trail:** The North River Access Trail would be a hiking-only trail, approximately 600 feet in length, between the River Trail and the Russian River, between a point along the River Trail and the proposed River Boat Portage. The trail would be approximately 36-



inches in width to a maximum of 60-inches in width in sections to accommodate wheelchair-landing areas and turnouts. The trail would be composed of native material.

- ❖ **River Boat Portage:** The boat portage would be approximately 200 feet in length over a maximum 5 percent slope and would be composed of compacted native material. The River Boat Portage would accommodate trailers to launch non-motorized boats into the Russian River. The boat portage would be signed as a “No Swimming” area.
- ❖ **River Drive:** River Drive would be developed between the Lake Benoist West parking area proposed for development in Phase III and the River Access Boat Portage, proposed for development in this Phase V. River Drive would be approximately 1.2 miles in length, with approximately 10 feet in paved width and 1-foot wide gravel shoulders on each side. The road width would be in compliance with Fire Safe Standards. River Drive would be a one-lane vehicle access with turnouts for passing vehicles in the opposite direction. River Drive would continue beyond the proposed River Parking area (description following) to connect with the proposed River Boat Portage (description following). This section would run over and slope down an existing berm that separates the property from the Russian River, at approximately 10 percent slope.
- ❖ **River Parking:** The River parking area would accommodate up to twenty-four parking spaces. The parking area would be approximately 150 feet wide and 300 feet long. The parking stalls would be constructed of re-compacted rock. The vehicle access strip and two ADA-compliance parking stalls would be asphalt paved. The parking area would include a portable restroom.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Public notice and review of the Initial Study is required by CEQA. Generally, opportunities for public involvement exist during the review period for the Initial Study, during which time interested parties can submit written comments regarding the proposed project and the environmental document. The proposed project would be presented to the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee (to determine whether to prepare a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report), and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (to certify the environmental document and approve the project). Notification regarding the public review period for the environmental document and information regarding the public meetings will be mailed to the property owners in the vicinity of the project and to interested parties on the project mailing list. In addition to these required opportunities for public review, the Regional Parks Department has provided property tours, a Notice of Preparation Public Comment Period, and a Public Scoping Meeting. These are described below.

### **PROPERTY TOURS**

The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department hosted several property tours, the purpose of which was to provide interested members of the public with the opportunity to become familiar with the property. The property tours were co-hosted with the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and Land Paths. The property tours may continue in Spring 2004. The dates of the property tours were:

February 22, 2003	August 16, 2003
March 29, 2003	September 13, 2003
June 7, 2003	November 22, 2003
July 12, 2003	

### **NOTICE OF PREPARATION PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND SCOPING MEETING**

The Regional Parks Department prepared a Notice of Preparation of an Initial Study (NOP) for the proposed Riverfront Park project. The NOP was posted at the County Clerks office and was mailed to nearby property owners, responsible and trustee agencies, and other members of the public who requested a copy of the document on January 8, 2003. The NOP introduced the proposed Riverfront Project, provided information regarding the public comment period and Regional Parks Department contact person, and announced a Public Scoping Meeting on January 29, 2003. The public comment period was January 8 – February 14, 2003. Neither the NOP or Public Scoping Meeting are required by CEQA for Initial Study documents. The Regional Parks Department elected to utilize the NOP and Public Scoping Meeting process to introduce the proposed project to the public and agencies and to receive input regarding issues and concerns early in the planning and Initial Study process.

**Notice of Preparation:** The NOP Public Comment Period was 35 days, between January 8 – February 14, 2003. A total of 22 comment letters were received during the comment period and an additional 9 letters were received either before or after the comment period. Copies of these letters are included in

Appendix B. A number of the comment letters voiced the same concerns as those presented during the Public Scoping Meeting. A summary of additional issues is included in Appendix B.

**Scoping Meeting:** The Public Scoping Meeting was held on January 29, 2003 and included a presentation by Regional Parks Department staff and a public comment period. Regional Parks Department staff was available before and after the meeting, as well as during a break, to answer questions. Approximately 34 individuals signed the sign-in sheet, approximately 17 individuals submitted comment cards, and several individuals spoke at the Public Scoping Meeting. Several issues and concerns were voiced, which are summarized in Appendix B. Copies of the Agenda and completed comment cards are included in Appendix B.

### **SONOMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee (ERC) is a six-member committee that considers Initial Studies for capital improvement projects presented by Sonoma County departments and determines whether a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report pursuant to CEQA. The ERC considered the Initial Study for the proposed Riverfront Park on January 20, 2004. Postcards were mailed to those on the project mailing list as notification of the meeting and the meeting date was posted on the County's web-site. The ERC meeting is a public meeting and public comment was accepted. The ERC directed staff to revise portions of the Initial Study and continued the meeting to review the revisions and make a final recommendation regarding the appropriate CEQA document for this project. This second meeting occurred on March 23, 2004. The ERC recommended that a Negative Declaration be prepared for the proposed Riverfront Park Project. The Negative Declaration and Initial Study will be available for a 30-day public comment period. Postcards will be mailed to those on the project mailing list as notification of document availability and the public comment period.

### **SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (Board) is composed of five members, each representing a specific district in Sonoma County. The Board ultimately determines whether to adopt or approve an environmental document and whether to approve a given project. The Board would consider the environmental document and the public comments received during the comment period. Postcards will be mailed to those on the project mailing list as notification of the Board meeting after it is scheduled. The Board meeting is a public meeting and public comment is accepted.

## **Setting Information**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

### **AESTHETICS**

Eastside Road is a designated Scenic Landscape Unit in the Sonoma County General Plan and the Russian River is a designated Scenic Resource.<sup>9</sup> The existing lakes and vegetation highlight the visual character of the project area. The project area includes a redwood grove, riparian, and marsh vegetation.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

The project area is adjacent to vineyards along the entrance road and along a portion of the Lake Trail. There are no agricultural resources within the existing project area. None of the proposed Riverfront Park properties is in a Williamson Act contract.

### **AIR QUALITY**

The project area is within the jurisdiction of the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NSCAPCD). Air quality standards are established at both the Federal and the State level for a variety of pollutants and are intended to provide greater protection of public health. The NSCAPCD is in attainment of all Federal air quality standards. The NSCAPCD is in non-attainment for the State ozone standard and the State fine particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) standard. State standards are more stringent than the Federal standards.

Ground level ozone is commonly referred to as smog. Smog is formed in the atmosphere through chemical reactions between ozone precursors in the presence of sunlight. The principal sources of ozone precursors include combustion process, such as motor vehicle engines, and evaporation of solvents, paints, and fuels. Of these, motor vehicles are the single largest source of ozone precursor in the Bay Area. Exposure to ozone can result in physical symptoms such as eye irritation, respiratory diseases, and lung damage as well as environmental impacts such as impacts to vegetation and reduced visibility.<sup>10</sup>

Fine particulate matter is defined as particulate matter that is less than 10 microns in diameter, abbreviated as PM<sub>10</sub>. The sources of PM<sub>10</sub> are wide ranging, and include smoke, dust, aerosols, and metallic oxides from a variety of emissions, including wood-burning fireplaces, combustion, industrial processes, grading and construction, and motor vehicles. PM<sub>10</sub> can bypass the body's natural filtration system more easily than larger particles, lodge deep in lung tissue, and aggravate respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis and asthma.

There are no air quality standards for odors. Offensive odors rarely impact public health; however, they can negatively impact quality of life. Factors such as the location of potential sources of odors and the location of potential receptors to the source of odor are considered to determine the potential effects of odors on sensitive receptors.

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<sup>9</sup> Sonoma County General Plan. Figure OS-2. 1989.

<sup>10</sup> Bay Area Air Quality Management District. April 1996.

## **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The Russian River is mapped as a riparian corridor in the Sonoma County General Plan.<sup>11</sup> No part of the proposed Riverfront Park project area is mapped as a critical habitat area.

**Biotic Habitats:** Biotic resources studies were prepared by H.T. Harvey and Associates during the spring and summer of 2003.<sup>12</sup> The studies included archival and field research. The wetland delineation was conducted in compliance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers *Wetland Delineation Manual*. Eleven biotic habitats were identified within the project site, including small areas of seasonal wetlands, freshwater seep, and freshwater marsh. A summary of the habitat types, acreage, and relative percentage of the total site is presented in the table below and shown in Figure 8.

<b>TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF HABITAT TYPES</b>		
<b>Habitat Type - Aquatic</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Percent of Total Site</b>
Aquatic (the lakes)	122.24	50.95
Freshwater Seep (Lake Benoist)	1.26	0.53
Freshwater Marsh (Lake Wilson)	0.86	0.36
Seasonal Wetlands	0.43	0.18
<b>Sub-total – Aquatic Habitat Types</b>	<b>124.70</b>	<b>52.02</b>
<b>Habitat Type - Terrestrial</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Percent of Total Site</b>
Mixed Riparian Forest	44.21	18.43
Bare Ground	19.35	8.07
Non-native Grassland	18.98	7.91
Redwood Forest	14.40	6.00
Coyote Brush Scrub	11.66	4.86
Mixed Evergreen Forest	4.83	2.01
Developed Areas	1.00	0.42
Native Grassland	0.68	0.28
<b>Sub-total – Terrestrial Habitat Types</b>	<b>115.11</b>	<b>47.98</b>
<b>TOTAL – AQUATIC &amp; TERRESTRIAL HABITATS</b>	<b>239.90</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>11</sup> Sonoma County General Plan. Figure OS-3. 1989.

<sup>12</sup> H.T. Harvey and Associates. *Biotic Assessment and Identification of Waters of the U.S.* Final Reports dated October 20, 2003.

The study area included 239.90 acres of the approximate 305-acre project area. The study area did not include the Lake McLaughlin environs because there are no park improvements proposed in this portion of the project site.

**Wetlands:** Reconnaissance-level field surveys were conducted to identify the extent and distribution of current federal<sup>13</sup> and state<sup>14</sup> jurisdictional waters within the project site. All wetlands are subject to state jurisdiction, including those wetlands that are not subject to federal jurisdiction. A total of 124.79 acres were identified as Waters of the State. A total of 124.79 acres were identified as meeting the requirements for federal jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, 8.28 acres of which were identified as meeting the requirements for federal jurisdiction under Section 10. It is important to note that the federal jurisdiction would not be exercised until such time that the Sonoma County Water Agency has completed the Reclamation Plan associated with the previous terrace mining activity.<sup>15</sup> State jurisdiction would be exercised for all phases of the proposed Riverfront Park project.

**Special-Status Species:** No special-status plant species were identified during reconnaissance-level field surveys. Several special-status animal species were identified as potential uncommon or rare visitors to the project area, including to the Russian River. These species are not expected to breed on site.

<b>TABLE 2: POTENTIAL TRANSIENT SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES</b>	
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mukiss</i>
Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>
Coho salmon	<i>Onchorhynchus kisutch</i>
River lamprey	<i>Lampetra ayresi</i>
Green sturgeon	<i>Acpenser medirostris</i>
Willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax trailii</i>
Barrow's goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>
Townsend's western big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</i>

<sup>13</sup> Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1972) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (1899)

<sup>14</sup> Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (1972)

<sup>15</sup> Straub, Peter. United States Army Corps of Engineers. Personal Communication and Calvin Fong, Chief, Regulatory Branch, United States Army Corps of Engineers. Letter to Jon Niehaus, Sonoma County Water Agency dated May 8, 2003.

Several other special-status species were identified as potentially breeding on the project site, and are listed in the following table.

<b>TABLE 3: POTENTIAL NESTING SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES</b>	
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Sacramento perch	<i>Archoplites interruptus</i>
Russian River tule perch	<i>Hysterocarpus traskii pomo</i>
Northwestern pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>
Double-crested cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
Northern spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
Long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>
Vaux's swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
Purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>
Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>

Staff of the Sonoma County Water Agency sampled Lake Wilson to identify the variety of fish in the lakes during the summer of 2003. Staff concluded that the lakes provide ideal habitat for warm-water game fish, such as largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, redear sunfish, suckers, blackfish, white catfish, and crappie. The lakes also provide habitat for most resident species found in the Russian River, but are unlikely to provide habitat for anadromous species such as the salmonids and shad.<sup>16</sup> Property owners in the project vicinity have reported sightings of feral pigs, wild boars, and bobcats.

<sup>16</sup> Chase, Shawn. Senior Environmental Specialist – Natural Resources Section. Sonoma County Water Agency. Personal Communication.



## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

A cultural resources survey was completed for the property in July 2001.<sup>17</sup> The survey was conducted pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and included archival research, consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission and local Native American groups, and field inspection of the study area. In summary, the field survey found no cultural resources or historic properties within the study area and no resource-specific recommendations regarding the preservation and protection of resources were offered.

Regarding cultural history, the study area was included in the territory populated by the Southern Pomo, a hunter-gatherers society. The Southern Pomo settled in large, permanent villages that included a primary village as well as seasonal camps and task-specific sites. The primary villages were occupied continually throughout the year. The seasonal camps and task-specific sites were visited as needed to obtain particular resources that were available only during certain seasons.

Archival research revealed that no ethnographic sites had been reported within the study area. The nearest reported ethnographic site is the village of *bu'dutcilan*. Descriptions regarding the location of the village places the site approximately two miles southwest of the study area. Field inspection did not reveal evidence of the village within the study area. Archival research also revealed that five archaeological sites had been found within a one-mile radius of the study area. Field inspection did not locate evidence of archaeological sites within the study area. (Origer 2001)

## **GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY**

According to the Sonoma County General Plan Public Safety Element, a small portion of the project site is mapped within the Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone and as an area with a moderate to high potential for liquefaction. Portions of the project site are mapped as having a moderate or high potential for landslides.<sup>18</sup>

The project site is mapped as having the alluvium rock unit. Alluvium consists of sand, silt, clay, and gravel.<sup>19</sup> Alluvium is of the Holocene age and underlies the alluvial plains of the Russian River, as well as other creeks and tributary streams in Sonoma County. The project site also includes the Wilson Grove Formation, formerly referred to as the Merced Formation. The Wilson Grove Formation crops out over an extensive area in western Sonoma County and is in the subsurface below the Santa Rosa plain. The Wilson Grove Formation is generally a deposit of poorly consolidated sandstone that crops out in the Sebastopol area and areas to the south, north, and west. The sandstone is generally massive and contains lesser amounts of conglomerate and tuff. The sands were originally deposited in a variety of near shore environments including beaches, more off shore settings, and deltaic environments. The Wilson Grove Formation is very fossiliferous. The locality at Wilson Grove, within the project area, was first noted by Osmont (1905) who described the soft, unconsolidated sandstones and conglomerates in

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<sup>17</sup> Quin, James P. and Thomas M. Origer. July 2, 2001.

<sup>18</sup> Sonoma County General Plan. Figure PS-1c. 1989.

<sup>19</sup> Sonoma County Ground Water Study – Geology of Alexander Valley and Healdsburg Area.

the area. The outcrop at Wilson Grove is stratigraphically above the Roblar Tuff which has been radiometrically dated at 6 million years. Thus, the outcrop at Wilson Grove is significant not only as the reference section for Wilson Grove Formation but also as a valuable and significant paleontological resource. The fossils indicate a Late Pliocene age for the Wilson Grove Formation at the Wilson Grove locality.<sup>20</sup>

**Soils:** The majority of the project area is mapped as within three soil types, including the Yolo, the Riverwash, and Alluvial Series soils. A small portion of the site, in the redwood grove area, includes Steinbeck Series soil.<sup>21</sup> All of these soils are listed as hydric soils of the United States.<sup>22</sup>

The Yolo Series soils, including Yolo loam and sandy loam (YmB, YnA), cover approximately 153 acres (50 percent) of the project site. Yolo Series soils consist of moderately well drained to well-drained loams that are underlain by recent alluvium from sandstone and shale. The soils are on alluvial fans and floodplains, mainly in the valley areas along the Russian River, Dry Creek channels, and other major drainage-ways. This soil type is in areas subject to flooding and consequent deposition because of the topographic position along rivers and creeks. Runoff is typically slow to medium, the erosion potential is slight to moderate, and the shrink-swell potential is low to moderate. In terms of agriculture, the soil type is suitable for orchards, vineyards, and pasture. Water in or on the soil could interfere with plant growth and cultivation, and could result in poor drainage. Historically, cultivated crops on Yolo soils have included fruit and nut orchards, vineyards, and row crops as well as for limited grazing and wildlife habitat. In a natural state, vegetation generally consists of annual and perennial grasses, forbs, shrubs, berries, and oak trees.

The Riverwash Series soils (RnA) and Alluvial Lands soils (AdA, AeA) cover approximately 64 acres (21 percent) of the project site. Riverwash Series soils consist of very recent deposits of gravel, sand, and silt alluvium along major streams and their tributaries. Gravel bars make up the majority of these areas. During floods, alluvial areas are subject to repeated deposition, erosion, and movement of transported material. Due to the variable composition of these soils, shrink-swell potential cannot be estimated. These areas are generally unsuitable for agricultural purposes due to water in or on the soil, coupled with the coarse texture of the soil, would interfere with plant growth or cultivation. Recreation uses and habitat conservation are noted as suitable uses on these soils. The Alluvial Land, sandy and Alluvial Land, clayey soils both are common to alluvial fans along river and stream channels. The sandy classification consists of sandy and gravelly deposits, the texture of the surface layer variable due to overwashes. Vegetation generally consists of willow, wild berry, shrubs, and grasses. The clayey classification consists of nearly level clay loams and silty clays that are underlain by stratified sand and gravel lenses. This soil type can be used for crops such as prunes, pears, vineyards, row crops, and pasture.

Steinbeck Series soils (SnF) consist of moderately well drained loams that have a subsoil of mainly clay loam underlain by weakly to moderately consolidated sandstone and shale. Steinbeck Series soils are

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<sup>20</sup> Tom Anderson, Professor. Sonoma State University. E-mail dated October 16, 2003.

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture. May 1972. Soil Survey, Sonoma County, CA.. Sheet 65 and associated pages.

<sup>22</sup> H.T. Harvey & Associates. *Identification of Waters of the U.S.* October 20, 2003. Page 5.

located on dissected marine terraces. In most places, vegetation consists of annual and perennial grasses, forbs, shrubs, and scattered oak trees. Runoff is characterized as medium to rapid, erosion potential is considered moderate to high, and shrink-swell potential is low to moderate.

**Topography:** The topography is relatively flat throughout the majority of the proposed Riverfront Park properties. Steeper terrain, 15-45 percent, is located in the hill area south of the Redwood Grove picnic area and west of Eastside Road. This area comprises approximately 15 acres of the approximate 305-acre site.

## **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Regional Parks Department staff completed a Services and Response Study as requested by the Windsor Fire Protection District. The purpose of the Study was to determine the level of emergency service calls that could be expected at the developed park site. The study examined emergency service calls at Spring Lake Park, a Sonoma County Regional Parks facility that includes uses similar to those proposed at Riverfront Park. The swimming lagoon was not included in the Services and Response Study because similar swimming facilities are not proposed at Riverfront Park. For the calendar year 2002, Spring Lake Park had a total of 24 visitor accidents, 15 of which required emergency services and 9 required park staff administration of first aid. A total of 42 crime reports were filed, 08 of which required Santa Rosa Police Department or Sonoma County Sheriff support and 19 required park staff support. A total of 3 water related rescues were performed by park staff, all three required towing boats back to the dock.<sup>23</sup>

Regional Parks Department staff requested information regarding emergency services and police activities from other public agencies that have similar recreational facilities as those proposed at Riverfront Park. Marin County manages the Mount Tamalpais watershed. These regional recreational facilities offer boating, fishing, and trails at several locations throughout Marin County including approximately 17,000 acres of park and open space land, over 2,000 acres of surface waters, and approximately 75 to 115 miles of trails. The Mount Tamalpais watershed area has approximately 80 emergency service calls per year, which equates to 0.005 calls per acre per year. Approximately 200 citations are issued per year by rangers or sheriff deputies, which equates to 0.012 citations per acre per year. In applying these per acre incidents to the approximate 304 acres at Riverfront Park, the facility could expect approximately 2 emergency service calls and 4 citations per year.<sup>24</sup>

It is important to note that none of the facilities surveyed can duplicate the exact conditions that would be encountered at the proposed Riverfront Park. The location and previous land use, as well as the presence of park staff could alter the numbers of reported incidents that may occur for any given year.

The Regional Parks Department recognizes that there are incidents of illegal access to the property and undesirable activity at the proposed Riverfront Park site. Regional Parks Department staff has observed

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<sup>23</sup> Cleveland, Mark. Park Planner II, Sonoma County Regional Parks Department. *Services and Response Study*. November 20, 2003.

instances of ATV and/or four-wheel driving and vandalism on the site. Neighbors have reported these and other undesirable activities. Regional Parks Department experience in similar park circumstances has been that illegal access to the property and undesirable activity dramatically decrease after a property is opened as a public park facility. This has been demonstrated most recently at the County's Sunset Beach property. Sunset Beach is located along the Russian River near Forestville. Prior to County management, the Sunset Beach property owner reported a long history of trespass and undesirable activities. Illegal camping, late night parties, campfires, and the discharge of firearms are among the reports filed by Sonoma County Sheriff deputies. The Sonoma County Sheriff documented 87 dispatch calls over a two-year period beginning in July 1999 for law enforcement when the weather was warm. Calls consisted primarily of suspicious person, nudity, disturbance, vandalism, trespass, security checks, drowning, and other miscellaneous help calls. The Regional Parks Department took over management of the Sunset Beach properties in 2003. The illegal campsite was removed and public access has been permitted. Since that time, the Regional Parks Department has received seven reports. One was regarding a vehicle driving on a park trail, one was vandalism of park signs, several remainder were for dumping household garbage in a County trashcan, and one was an accidental drowning that did not actually occur on the Sunset Beach property. During this same period, the Sonoma County Sheriff Department reported 3 potential calls to the property, all for security checks. The Sunset Beach example demonstrates that incidences of illegal access to the County's property and undesirable activity decrease after the Regional Parks Department assumes management responsibility for a public recreation facility. The Regional Parks Department expects that instances of illegal access and undesirable activity at the existing Riverfront Park property would decrease after the public park is opened and operational.

The Sonoma County General Plan Public Safety Element indicates that a portion of the project site, the Redwood Grove, is within an area subject to a high or very high potential for large wildland fires.<sup>25</sup>

An *Environmental Due Diligence and Phase II Site Investigation*<sup>26</sup> was conducted by the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOSD) before acquisition of the property. During the initial assessment, some areas of concern were identified, generally on the pad on the west side of Lake McLaughlin. These consisted of imported mercury mine tailings, an asphalt debris area and areas of buried refuse from historical operations. These materials were removed from the project site in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. Post-removal testing concluded that the removal satisfactorily addressed the concerns identified in the initial assessment. The removal was completed to the satisfaction of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Information provided by Steve Phelps, Corporation Yard Manager, Marin Municipal Water District.

<sup>25</sup> Sonoma County General Plan. Figure PS-1c. 1989.

<sup>26</sup> PES Environmental, Inc. *Environmental Due Diligence and Phase II Site Investigation. Hanson Aggregates Property 7821 Eastside Road, Windsor, California.* November 6, 2002. Available for review at the Sonoma County Water Agency Capricorn Way Office.

<sup>27</sup> Angelo, Jim, Director of Regional Parks, Randy Poole, Water Agency General Manager/Chief Engineer, and Andrea Mackenzie, Open Space District General Manager. Memorandum to the respective Boards regarding Hanson Transaction Follow Up and Status Report. November 25, 2002.

## **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

According to the Resource Conservation Element of the Sonoma County General Plan<sup>28</sup>, the project site is within a major groundwater basin and a portion of the project site is within a groundwater recharge area. Recharge is the movement of water from land surfaces and streambeds into underground aquifers. Several factors contribute to groundwater recharge, including the slope of the land surface, sub-surface geology, soil type and permeability, storage space available in the aquifer, availability of surface water, and precipitation. The project area is mapped within the Russian River drainage basin.

The project site is mapped as within a special flood hazard area inundated by the 100-year flood. Base flood elevations have been determined on the project site at 76 feet above mean sea elevation.<sup>29</sup>

The proposed Riverfront Park project area features approximately 5,500 lineal feet of Russian River frontage along the westerly boundary, approximately 132 acres of surface water defined by the three lakes, approximately 23 acres of created marsh, minor wetlands, and a few unnamed tributary streams. Most of the property drains into the three lakes, which are connected to each other through overflow culverts and spillways. Lake Benoist is separated from the Russian River by a rock weir that is maintained by the Sonoma County Water Agency. The Russian River overflows into Lake Benoist at this existing rock weir during periods of high flows in the river.

One unnamed ephemeral stream passes through the existing redwood grove into Lake Wilson. Surface drainage from the adjacent vineyard northeast of the property flows into Lake McLaughlin through two large culverts. Drainage from adjacent properties also drains into Lake Benoist.

The Regional Parks Department contracted with Green Valley Consulting Engineers to prepare a Hydrology Study for the proposed Riverfront Park project. The Hydrology Study provided a drainage analysis of the project area and provided recommendations regarding drainage improvements to be incorporated into the proposed park development.

## **LAND USE AND PLANNING**

**Historical and Existing Property Use:** The historic use of the property was wet-pit aggregate gravel mining and processing. This activity resulted in the three lakes as well as construction of some of the existing levees between the Russian River and the property.

The Russian River, which flows on the westerly boundary of the project area, is used for canoeing and other water-related activities. While the project area was operated as a gravel mining operation, several private parties maintained agreements for use of the property for a variety of recreational interests. Since the change in ownership, the only public uses of the project area have been associated with the public property tours, educational programs, and Russian River clean up, which are activities consistent with the Riverfront Park Interim Access Policy<sup>30</sup>. However, the project area has been subject to unauthorized

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<sup>28</sup> Sonoma County General Plan. Figure RC-2c. 1989.

<sup>29</sup> Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel 540. Map Revised April 2, 1991.

<sup>30</sup> Approved by the Board of Supervisors by Resolution No. 03-0419 on April 29, 2003.

public use. Some unauthorized use has been fairly benign, such as fishing and hiking. Other unauthorized use has resulted in property damage from 4-wheel or ATV use and intentional vandalism.

**Adjacent Land Use:** Adjacent land uses are primarily agricultural uses (vineyards), other former and current terrace gravel mining areas, and residential.

**Existing Zoning Designations:** The existing land use designation of the properties is Land Intensive Agriculture, 60-acre density. The properties are subject to the following zoning designations:

TABLE 4: ZONING DESIGNATIONS	
Code	Description
LIA	Land Intensive Agriculture
B6 60	Combined District - 60 acre density
MR	Mineral Resources
Z	Second Unit Exclusion
F1	Primary Floodplain
F2	Secondary Floodplain
BR	Biotic Resource

**Easements:** One property owner on the eastside of Lake Benoist has an easement to the lake. There is an existing concrete slab positioned down slope between the property owner's road and Lake Benoist.

The SCAPOSD has a Conservation Easement over the properties. The purpose of the Conservation Easement is to "preserve the open space, natural, scenic, and public outdoor recreation value of the Property, and each of them, and to prevent any uses of the Property that will significantly impair or interfere with those values." The Conservation Easement includes permitted and prohibited uses and practices.

## **MINERAL RESOURCES**

According to the Resource Conservation Element of the Sonoma County General Plan, the project site is within a mineral resource deposit. This would correspond with the previous use of the site for gravel mining. There is no current gravel mining use on the project site.

## **NOISE**

The project area has ambient noise from traffic surrounding the area. Traffic noise can generally be heard throughout the project area. Noise standards are established in the Sonoma County General Plan.<sup>31</sup> Noise, which can be defined as "objectionable sound," is usually measured in A-scale decibels (dBA). Noise of cumulative duration cannot exceed 50 dBA and momentary noise of one minute or less cannot exceed 70 dBA during the daytime hours of 7:00 am – 10:00 pm. Between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am, the standards are 45 dBA for cumulative duration noise and 65 dBA for momentary noise. Noise of cumulative duration, in the context of the proposed project, could be defined as the on-going noise

expected from use of the facility. Momentary noise of one minute or less, in the context of the proposed project, could be defined as the occasional noise from certain maintenance activities or construction activities. In general, noise levels decrease approximately 6 dBA with each doubling of distance from the source, due to the geometrical spreading of sound waves. For example, a noise that generates 70 dBA at 100 feet from the source of noise would be expected to produce 64 dBA at a 200-foot distance from the noise source, and 58 dBA at 400-foot distance from the noise source, and so on.

**Previous Noise Studies - Syar Industries.** Ambient noise level at the proposed Riverfront Project site is assumed to be 41 dBA. This is the average ambient noise measurement included in the 1992 EIR for the Syar Industries Healdsburg Terrace Phase II – Revised Mining and Reclamation Plan<sup>32</sup> taken at a site with similar characteristics to the proposed project site. Sound levels recorded at this location ranged between 35 dBA and 65 dBA, the higher reading attributed to aircraft flying over the site. Ambient noise measurements were taken at two other sites for the 1992 Syar Industries EIR. The average readings were 61 dBA and 53 dBA for these sites. The higher measurements were attributed to their closer proximity to State Highway 101. Site 1 had a similar setting to the proposed Riverfront Park site and the noise data collected as part of the 1992 Syar Industries EIR is considered comparable and applicable to the proposed project site.

**Steelhead Beach and Unity Ballfields.** The Regional Parks Department has had noise impact assessments prepared for two of its facilities, Steelhead Beach in 1995 and Unity Ballfield (now named Schopflin Fields) in 1999. The Steelhead Beach study included noise measurements from an existing campground, which varied between 40 dBA and 65 dBA at a distance of 100 feet from that campground boundary. The nearest sensitive receptors to the Steelhead Beach camping area included residences within 275 feet of the County's property. The study concluded that the noise impact from the proposed Steelhead Beach campground would be negligible and generally indiscernible to nearby sensitive receptors due to traffic noise from River Road. No noise mitigation measures were required for the Steelhead Beach project. The Unity Ballfield study stated the average ambient noise measurement at the ballfield site as 55 – 65 dBA, the higher readings could be partially attributed to traffic noise on Old Redwood Highway. The Study based the average noise measurement from use of the ballfield on a comparable ballfield that was in use at the time of the study and listed it as 37 dBA. Ballfield use included noise from ballplayers, spectators, and a PA system. The study concluded that there would be no net increase in cumulative noise because the noise expected from use of the ballfield was lower than the existing ambient noise measurements at the site.

Potential noise-sensitive receptors in the Riverfront Park project vicinity would include residences. The nearest residential property<sup>33</sup> is approximately 50 feet from the County's southeast property line and approximately 400 feet from any proposed park use. The proposed Lake Trail around Lake Benoit

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<sup>31</sup> Sonoma County General Plan Table NE-2, 1989.

<sup>32</sup> Baseline Environmental Consulting for the Sonoma County Planning Department. Syar Industries, Inc. Healdsburg Terrace Phase II – Revised Mining and Reclamation Plan. December 1992.

<sup>33</sup> APN 110-210-012 (Dupret property)

would be the closest proposed park use to this property. The second nearest residential residence<sup>34</sup> is approximately 350 feet east of the County's property line and nearest proposed park use. The Redwood Grove parking area and Redwood Grove picnic area are the nearest proposed park uses to this residence. Eastside Road separates residence and the County's property, and is the primary source of ambient noise in the project vicinity.

The proposed project is anticipated to result in cumulative duration noise sources including vehicles, human voices, and horses. Momentary noise would be expected to result during the construction phase and occasionally for operation and maintenance activities. Construction-related, as well as occasional operation and maintenance noise would be short-term and temporary in duration. The anticipated sources of cumulative noise, primarily vehicle traffic and human voices, already exist in the project vicinity and are associated with traffic on Eastside Road and with agricultural activities that occur on the adjacent land uses.

## **POPULATION AND HOUSING**

The proposed Riverfront Park project site does not include any housing and none is proposed as part of the park development. There are residential properties and homes in the project vicinity.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Law Enforcement:** The project area is in the Sonoma County Sheriff Department's jurisdiction for law enforcement. Regional Parks Department Park Rangers enforce park rules at Regional Parks Department facilities when the facilities are open to the public. Staff is based on park use.

**Fire & Emergency Services:** The Public Safety Element of the Sonoma County General Plan indicates the project area is within a area with a high to very high potential for large wildland fires. Most of the project area consists of the three lakes and associated riparian vegetation. The redwood grove is approximately 15 acres in size and could be subject to wildland fires. The project area is in the jurisdiction of the Windsor Department. Regional Park staff met with representatives from the Windsor Fire Services. Recommendations proposed during that meeting have been incorporated into the Master Plan.

**Schools:** The nearest schools are over two miles from the project site, including Windsor High and Windsor Academy, Windsor Creek Elementary, and Cali Calmecac Charter #162 towards the northeast, and the Russian River Charter School and El Molino High School towards the southwest.

## **RECREATION**

According to the Sonoma County General Plan Open Space Element, the Russian River is a designated Waterway Trail for outdoor recreation.<sup>35</sup> The Russian River forms the Russian River Waterway Trail between the Pacific Ocean and Preston Bridge, located immediately north of the City of Cloverdale.

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<sup>34</sup> APN 066-230-037 (Shere property)

<sup>35</sup> Sonoma County General Plan. Figure OS-4a. 1989.



The Russian River is one of the largest coastal river and estuary systems in California. The watershed contains approximately 1,485 square miles, and the river channel is approximately 100 miles long. The Russian River provides economic, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources to the landscape of northern California. The Russian River, including the section within the project area, is utilized by outdoor recreationists for a variety of activities. It is estimated that over 100,000 people canoe or boat the Russian River in Sonoma County annually. Thousands of others use the Russian River for swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, nature study, fishing, and a myriad of other activities.<sup>36</sup>

## **TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC**

The proposed park facility would be accessed from Eastside Road, from either Windsor River Road or Trenton-Healdsburg Road. In the vicinity of Riverfront Park, Eastside Road is a two-lane, rural road. It has drainage ditches adjacent to both lands and limited shoulder width. Eastside Road and Windsor River Road are considered a secondary arterial in the Sonoma County General Plan,<sup>37</sup> the purpose of which is to carry large volumes of traffic over long distances. They are considered to be of county-wide or regional importance. Trenton-Healdsburg Road was not specifically identified in the Sonoma County General Plan. The types of standards that apply to primary and secondary arterials include “number of travel lanes, driveway spacing, signalization, parking restrictions, right-of-way width, and roadway width.” Eastside Road is identified in Improvement Category “A – Upgrade/Maintenance.” The types of improvements included in this category include “safety improvements, curvature reductions, traffic control devices, minor pavement widening, resurfacing, intersection improvements, and turn lanes.” There are no known improvements scheduled for Eastside Road at this time.

A Traffic Impact Study<sup>38</sup> was completed during the preliminary planning phase for the Riverfront Park Project to assess potential impacts to traffic and circulation in association with the proposed Riverfront Park development. There are two intersections within the vicinity of Riverfront Park:

- Windsor River Road intersects with Eastside Road approximately two miles north of Riverfront Park. The intersection is a T-intersection that is controlled by a stop sign at the westbound approach of Windsor River Road. Windsor River Road is two-lane, rural road that is classified as a Secondary Arterial in the Sonoma County General Plan. Windsor River Road provides access to State Highway 101 and the Town of Windsor.
- Trenton-Healdsburg Road intersects with Eastside Road approximately one mile south of Riverfront Park. The intersection is a T-intersection controlled by a three-way stop. Trenton-Healdsburg Road is a two-lane, rural road that is classified as a Secondary Arterial in the Sonoma County General Plan. Trenton-Healdsburg Road intersects with River Road south of the Trenton-Healdsburg intersection with Eastside Road. The intersection is controlled by two stop signs located at the northbound and southbound

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<sup>36</sup>Hyden Associates Landscape Architects and Circuit Rider Productions, Incorporated for the California State Coastal Conservancy. *Russian River Public Access & Trespass Management Plan*. No publication date.

<sup>37</sup> Sonoma County General Plan Figure CT-6c

approaches of Trenton-Healdsburg Road. River Road is classified as a Primary Arterial in the Sonoma County General Plan and provides access to State Highway 101 towards the east and to the unincorporated community of Guerneville towards the west. River Road is a two-lane rural road with paved shoulders.

Turning movement counts were conducted as part of the traffic study at the intersections identified above. The counts were taken during a weekday and a weekend during evening peak hours. The traffic study concluded that the westbound approach at the Eastside Road intersection with Windsor River Road operates at a level-of-service<sup>39</sup> (LOS) B during the weekday evening peak and at a LOS A during the weekend evening peak. The intersection of Eastside Road at Trenton-Healdsburg Road operates at a LOS A at both the weekday and weekend evening peaks. The Trenton-Healdsburg Road intersection with River Road operates at a LOS F during the weekday peak and a LOS E during the weekend evening peak.

**Left-Turn Lane on Eastside Road:** The traffic study evaluated traffic volumes to determine whether a left-turn lane would be needed on Eastside Road to accommodate traffic entering Riverside Park from northbound Eastside Road. The need for such a left-turn lane was considered using the traffic conditions with the highest left-turn volumes, which is the existing condition plus the Phase IV project. The traffic study determined that there would be insufficient disruption to through traffic to warrant a left-turn lane on Eastside Road, even after all four phases of the proposed Riverfront Park are developed.

**Sight Distances at the Proposed Riverfront Park Road:** The traffic study evaluated whether there is adequate sight distance from the proposed Riverfront Park road onto Eastside Road in both directions. The traffic study concluded that there is approximately 400 feet of sight distance in both directions on Eastside Road to the proposed park road. There is a vertical curve measured from the proposed park entrance road to the south on Eastside Road and a horizontal curve measured from the proposed park road to the north on Eastside Road. The existing sight distance would be sufficient for stopping on Eastside Road, in either direction, for vehicles exiting the park road and would be sufficient for vehicles entering both approaches of Eastside Road.

<sup>38</sup> TJKM transportation Consultants. *Traffic Impact Study for Windsor Lakes Regional Park*. December 12, 2001.

<sup>39</sup> Level of Service Description for Two-Way Stop Controlled Intersection. There are no specific standards defined for intersection LOS; however, LOS E is considered acceptable for unsignalized intersections.

LOS	Description for each vehicle subject to delay
LOS A	Very low control delay, less than 10 seconds.
LOS B	Control delay greater than 10 and up to 15 seconds.
LOS C	Control delay greater than 15 and up to 25 seconds.
LOS D	Control delay greater than 25 and up to 35 seconds.
LOS E	Control delay greater than 35 and up to 50 seconds.
LOS F	Control delay in excess of 50 seconds.

## **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

There is no public water or sewer service available at the project site. Electrical and phone service may be available off of Eastside Road. Underground fiber optic cable exists along the east and north sides of Lake McLaughlin and along the entire length of south side of the Park Entrance Road.

## **REGULATORY SETTING**

Several federal, state, and local agencies are likely to have jurisdiction regarding the development of the proposed Riverfront Park.

### **UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulates activities that have the potential to affect navigable waters under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10 permits) and waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404 permit). Section 404 permits are required prior to discharging dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Waters of the United States generally include surface waters such as navigable waters and their tributaries, all interstate waters and their tributaries, all wetlands adjacent to these waters, and all impoundments of these waters. Wetlands generally include freshwater wetlands, saltwater wetlands, marshes, swamps, bogs, and other similar areas having hydrophytic soils and vegetation. Corps jurisdiction of tributary waters is limited to the ordinary high water (OHW) and below, which is typically indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the opposing channel banks, deposition of leaf litter and other debris, and the lower limit of moss growth on channel banks. Construction activities within jurisdictional waters are regulated by the Corps and are subject to Corp permitting.

The Corps would not exert regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act until such time that the Sonoma County Water Agency completes the Reclamation Plan associated with the former terrace mining activities or until May 2008, unless new information or changed circumstances warrant re-evaluation.<sup>40</sup> The Corps consider the gravel mining pits as meeting the definition of Waters of the United States until the gravel mining activities are abandoned. The Reclamation Plan is associated with the former gravel mining activities, and therefore, the lakes are not considered to be abandoned at this point. After the Reclamation Plan is complete, the former gravel mining operation would be considered abandoned and the lakes, along with associated wetlands, would then be considered Waters of the United States. The Corps would exert regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for any activity below OHW on the Russian River.

### **UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) oversees the analysis of the Corps regarding the issuance of permits for filling wetlands under Section 404 permits and issues permits for point source discharges to waterways.

### **UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The USFWS also advises the Corps on Section 7 and Section

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<sup>40</sup> Fong, Calvin. Section Chief, Regulatory Branch. United States Army Corps of Engineers. Letter to Jon Niehaus, Sonoma County Water Agency. May 8, 2003.

404 permits for projects that could affect fish and wildlife. Regional Parks would consult with the USFWS during the preliminary planning phase of the proposed project because the Russian River has several species of wildlife protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Generally, USFWS is responsible for terrestrial and freshwater aquatic species.

### **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FISHERIES**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (formerly the National Marine Fisheries Service and now referred to as NOAA Fisheries) administers the Federal Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act as they pertain to marine species. They also advise the Corps on Section 7 and Section 404 permits for projects that could affect fish spawning and fish habitat. Regional Parks would consult with the NOAA Fisheries during the preliminary planning phase of the proposed project because the Russian River has several species of wildlife protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Generally, NOAA Fisheries is responsible for marine mammals, anadromous fish, and other marine species.

### **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) enters into an Agreement Regarding Proposed Stream or Lake Alteration (Streambed Alteration Agreements) pursuant to Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code for projects that involve work in streams, creeks, or rivers. The CDFG is also responsible for the protection of plant and wildlife populations and for overseeing the California Endangered Species Act. Certain project elements may be subject to a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

### **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

The California Department of Health Services would issue the permit for development of the potable water supply. A Public Water System Permit would be required.

### **CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, NORTH COAST REGION**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is responsible for protecting surface, ground, and coastal waters within its boundaries, pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of the California Water Code. The RWQCB can issue a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for applicable activities. A Notice of Intent must be filed with the State Water Resources Control Board for construction projects that could disturb one acre or more of land surface.

The RWQCB also has federal and state jurisdiction for activities that could result in a discharge of dredged or fill material to a water body, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Federal authority under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is exercised whenever a proposed project requires a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The RWQCB would then issue a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Whenever a proposed project is not subject to federal authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the RWQCB can exercise state

authority. In these cases, the RWQCB would issue a Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements. The RWQCB jurisdiction extends below the top of bank.

The proposed project may be required to file a NOI with the SWRCB for one or more phases of development. The proposed Riverfront Park project is within the boundaries of the North Coast Region RWQCB. During the time that the Sonoma County Water Agency is completing the Reclamation Plan and the United States Army Corps of Engineers is not exerting federal authority, the project may require a Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements from the RWQCB for project elements that could fill Waters of the State.

### **CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) issues permits for work within state lands, which include navigable waterways and areas below high water marks. Regional Parks would consult with the CSLC regarding project elements that would extend into the Russian River, at such time that these elements are proposed for development.

### **MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT**

The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito Abatement District (MSMAD) is responsible for the prevention of vector growth associated with water bodies.

### **NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

The Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NSCAPD) operates under the jurisdiction of the California Air Resources Control Board. The NSCAPD is responsible for monitoring air quality and has authority over activities that emit pollutants into the atmosphere.

### **SONOMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Sonoma County Department of Public Works and Transportation issues encroachment permits for work in county roadways. The “No Parking” signs proposed in Phase I would require an encroachment permit.

### **SONOMA COUNTY PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) approves subdivision and building plans in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County; issues grading and building permits; and issues Sonoma County Ordinance 3836R permits for work in streams and rivers. As part of the grading permit process, PRMD verifies the applicant’s compliance with NPDES permit requirements. The proposed project may be subject to a grading permit and 3836R permit, which would be required prior to construction. The PRMD also makes consistency determinations in regards to the Sonoma County General Plan.

## **Initial Study Checklist**

## Initial Study Checklist

This checklist is taken from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines<sup>1</sup>, updated October 26, 1998. For each item, one of four responses is given:

- ☒ No Impact: The proposed project will not have the impact described.
- ☒ Less Than Significant Impact: The proposed project may result in the impact described, but at a level that is less than significant. Mitigation is not required, however, mitigation measures may be included to further reduce the impact.
- ☒ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated: The proposed project may result in the impact described at a level that is potentially significant. The incorporation of proposed mitigation measures would reduce the potentially significant impact to a less than significant level. For these responses, proposed mitigation measures are included after the discussion of the potential impact.
- ☒ Potentially Significant Impact: The proposed project may have the impact described at a level that is potentially significant. The potentially significant impact cannot be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of proposed mitigation measures. An environmental impact report must be prepared for this project.

Each question on the checklist was answered by evaluating the proposed project as a whole, considering the potential impacts that may occur for any phase of the proposed project. The checklist includes a discussion of the impacts and mitigation measures that have been identified. Sources used in this Initial Study are numbered and listed beginning on page 32. These sources, including consultant studies, are available for review at the Regional Parks Department office unless otherwise indicated. Following the discussion of each checklist item one or more sources used are noted in parentheses.

The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department agrees to accept all mitigation measures listed in this checklist as conditions of approval of the proposed project and to obtain all necessary permits. Mitigation measures are proposed to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate potentially significant impacts.

Initial Study Checklist resource categories begin on the pages listed below:

Aesthetics.....	Page 3-2
Agricultural Resources.....	Page 3-3
Air Quality.....	Page 3-4
Biological Resources.....	Page 3-6
Cultural Resources.....	Page 3-14
Geology & Soils .....	Page 3-15
Hazards & Hazardous Materials .....	Page 3-17
Hydrology & Water Quality .....	Page 3-20
Land Use & Planning.....	Page 3-22
Mineral Resources.....	Page 3-23
Noise .....	Page 3-24
Population/Housing .....	Page 3-26
Public Services .....	Page 3-27
Recreation.....	Page 3-28
Transportation & Traffic.....	Page 3-29
Utilities & Service Systems .....	Page 3-31
Mandatory Findings of Significance .....	Page 3-32
Sources .....	Page 3-33
Determination .....	Page 3-35

<sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 14, Sections 15000, et seq.



# 1. AESTHETICS Would the project:

## a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed project is not expected to adversely affect scenic resources, including vistas. Eastside Road is a designated Scenic Landscape Unit in the Sonoma County General Plan and the Russian River is a designated Scenic Resource. The proposed project would not conflict with the goals and objectives listed under these designations. Construction activities are expected to have a short-term, temporary impact to scenic resources within the project area, which could affect residents of the adjacent subdivision. This construction-related impact is considered less than significant given its temporary nature (Sources 1, 2).

## b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed project is not expected to damage scenic resources. Construction of the various phases of the proposed project would require the removal of vegetation, including shrubs, trees, and branches. These activities not expected to significantly affect scenic resources because the entire project area includes mature, native vegetation and a very small percentage would be removed. There are no historic buildings within the project site. No scenic resource, including rock outcroppings, would be affected by the project. Mitigation measures regarding tree protection, branch trimming, and tree removal are included in the Biological Resources section of this Checklist. (Source 1)

## c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed project is not expected to degrade the visual character or quality of the site or its surroundings. The existing visual character of the project site is based on natural and restored vegetation and the restored lakes. The proposed park development is designed to capture the ambiance of the site and to utilize existing features to the greatest degree possible. New ground disturbance for vehicle access, parking, trail development, and boat portage would be minimal and would result in a less than significant impact on the visual character of the site and its surroundings. Vegetation removal would have a less than significant impact on overall visual quality and character of the site. Landscape planting would occur along portions of the property line along the park entrance road and the Redwood Grove parking area as well as in the vicinity of the Lake Benoist picnic areas. Construction activities are expected to have a short-term, temporary impact to scenic resources within the project area. This construction-related impact is considered less than significant given its temporary nature. Routine maintenance by parks staff and controlled access would keep the site free of debris. (Source 1)

## d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed project is not expected to create a new source of substantial light or glare. The proposed project includes vehicle parking areas for a total of 109 - 114 vehicles, including 5 – 10 spaces for vehicles with trailers. Glare could result from reflected sunlight on the vehicles during the daytime. This is not expected to result in an adverse effect to views due to the native vegetation that will remain the vicinity of the proposed parking areas. The proposed project would be constructed during the day and no additional light sources would be required for construction. The proposed park would be open from sunrise to sunset and potential users would not require new light sources. (Source 1)

## 2. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

- a) **Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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*The proposed project would not convert prime farmland, unique farmlands, or farmland of statewide importance to a non-agricultural use. (Source 1, 2, 5, 6)*

- b) **Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act contract?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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*The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use of Williamson Act contract. The project site is currently subject to Land Intensive Agriculture (LIA) zoning designation, among others, and will be changed to a public/quasi-public zoning designation as part of the project. The change in zoning designation in and of itself would not result in any conflict because the project site is not currently being utilized for agriculture. The project site is not under Williamson Act contract. The proposed project likewise would not affect existing adjacent agricultural uses or prevent future adjacent agricultural uses. (Source 1, 2, 5)*

- c) **Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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*The proposed project would not involve changes in the existing environment that would result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. The project site is not currently utilized for agriculture. (Source 1)*

### 3. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- a) **Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project would not conflict or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan. The proposed project is within the jurisdiction of the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NSCAPCD). The NSCAPCD does not have an air quality plan because it is in attainment of all Federal air quality standards. (Source 7)*

- b) **Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to result in violations of air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. The proposed project does not include stationary sources that would require an air quality permit. The proposed project would result in traffic as park users visit the site; however, this is not expected to increase violation of existing air quality standards. (Source 1, 7)*

- c) **Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The NSCAPCD is in non-attainment for the state ozone and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) standards. Vehicle use within the project area from visitor use, operation and maintenance activities, and construction activity may increase fugitive dust and vehicle emissions within the project site, although a cumulatively considerable net increase of ozone precursors or fugitive dust are not expected to result. (Source 1, 7) The less than significant impacts associated with use, operations and maintenance, and construction activity could be further with implementation of the following mitigation measures:*

#### **Mitigation Measures**

1. The contractor will be required to spray water or dust palliative on unpaved construction and staging areas during construction as directed by the County during construction of the proposed project. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to spray water or dust palliative on unpaved areas as needed during maintenance activities.
2. The contractor will be required to cover loads of soil, sand, and other loose materials over public roads, keep the loads at least two feet below the level of the sides of the hauling container, and wet the load sufficiently to prevent dust emissions during construction of the proposed project. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to cover loads of soil, sand, and other loose materials over public roads, keep the loads at least two feet below the level of the sides of the hauling container, and wet the load sufficiently to prevent dust emissions as needed during maintenance activities.
3. The contractor will be required to sweep paved roads as needed to remove soil that has been carried onto them from the project site during construction. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to sweep paved roads as needed to remove soil that has been carried onto them from the project site due to maintenance activities.
4. The contractor will be required to apply water or other dust palliative to stockpiles of soil as needed to control dust during construction. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to apply water or other dust palliative to stockpiles of soil as needed to control dust during maintenance activities.
5. The contractor will be required to operate all construction vehicles and equipment with emission levels that meet current air quality standards and to minimize idling time for all heavy equipment to reduce on-site emissions during construction. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to operate all construction vehicles and equipment with emission levels that meet current air quality standards and to minimize idling time for all heavy equipment to reduce on-site emissions during maintenance activities.

**d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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*The proposed project is not expected to expose sensitive receptors to substantial long-term pollutant concentrations. Sensitive receptors are facilities or land uses that include members of the population that are particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Examples include schools, hospitals, and residential areas. (Source 8) Sensitive receptors are likely to visit the proposed Riverfront Park and sensitive receptors exist, either by residence or business, within one-mile of the proposed project site. Vehicle use within the project area from visitor use, operation and maintenance activities, and construction activity may result in increased fugitive dust and vehicle emissions that could temporarily affect sensitive receptors, although substantial pollutant concentrations are not expected to result. (Source 1). The mitigation measures proposed under 3.c) would minimize the effect of this less than significant impact.*

**e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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*The proposed project is not expected to result in long-term objectionable odors. Construction equipment may generate odors during project construction. This short-term, construction-related impact would cease upon completion of construction activities. (Source 1)*

#### 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Wildlife Service?

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to result in a substantial adverse effect on protected or sensitive species as identified by the regulatory agencies. Construction of the proposed restroom in the Redwood Grove would require the removal of up to nine California bay laurel trees. This is not expected to result in a substantial adverse effect as these trees are located in a redwood forest and the majority of the trees would remain. Minimal brush clearing and tree branch pruning would be required for some of the proposed park improvements. The proposed project would not require the removal of significant vegetation or habitat. Proposed park improvements are not expected to result in substantial habitat modifications. (Source 1, 2, 9)*

*The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) identifies several special status plant and wildlife species that could potentially occur in the project area. None of these species were identified during the reconnaissance-level field surveys conducted during the Biotic Assessment however; the Biotic Assessment identified potentially significant impacts that could occur to certain biological resources.*

**Aquatic Vertebrates:** Degradation of water quality downstream from the construction area associated with the boat ramp and portages, the trail structures such as culverts and puncheons, and the Marsh Trail could affect aquatic vertebrates and amphibians. Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce potential water quality impacts.

##### **Mitigation Measures – Aquatic Vertebrates**

6. The Contractor will be required to sweep and/or wash all active paved construction areas daily. Water used for washing the paved areas will not be allowed to drain directly to the Russian River.
7. The Contractor will be required, as part of the sediment control plan, that an impermeable barrier be installed to retain sediment on the project site and prevent sediment from washing into the adjacent wetlands and aquatic habitats.
8. The Contractor will be required to provide temporary cover to all erodable disturbed surfaces to minimize erosion.
9. The Contractor will be required to provide permanent cover to all disturbed surfaces that are exposed to precipitation and hold the potential for runoff. Revegetation is a suitable permanent cover.
10. The Contractor will be required to restrict work within or immediately adjacent to the Russian River to the dry season to minimize potential water quality impacts.
  - a) The Contractor will be required to implement the following recommendations by the California Department of Fish and Game for work in all watercourses, whether or not the watercourse is dewatered, to minimize potential water quality impacts.
  - b) No equipment will be operated in the live stream channel.
  - c) When work in a flowing stream is unavoidable, any stream flow will be diverted around the work area by a barrier, temporary culvert, or a new channel capable of permitting upstream and downstream fish movement.
  - d) Construction of the barrier or the new channel will normally begin in the downstream area and continue in an upstream direction and the flow will be diverted only when construction of the diversion is completed.

- e) No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, cement, concrete, washings, petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material will be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into Waters of the State.

**Special-Status Plant Species:** *The Biotic Assessment identified potential habitat for 28 special-status plant species, seven of which are federally endangered and/or California State rare species. Although none of these special-status plant species were identified during field surveys, comprehensive surveys were not conducted during the appropriate blooming period for these species. Proposed park improvements, such as the Marsh Trail and the boat ramp and portages could result in the loss of populations of one or more of these special-status plant species.*

#### **Mitigation Measures – Special-Status Plant Species**

11. The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist, will conduct pre-construction surveys during the appropriate blooming periods to determine: 1) if any of these species occur within the project site, 2) the quality, location, and extent of any populations, and 3) existing habitat that could support a federal or state-listed species. Based on the results of the pre-construction surveys, one of the following actions will be implemented.
  - a. No Further Mitigation Necessary. If no sensitive species are present and if the biologist determines that the existing habitat is not likely to support federal and/or state-listed species, then no further mitigation is necessary.
  - b. Further Mitigation Required – Habitat Present. If no federal and/or state-listed species are observed within an area that would be modified by project implementation but suitable habitat exists that would support federal and/or state-listed species, the Regional Parks Department will either:
    - i. Modify Project Design. The Regional Parks Department will evaluate project design for modifications that would avoid habitat for federal and/or state-listed species.
    - ii. Delay Construction. The Regional Parks Department will delay construction activities until a protocol survey establishes that federal and/or state-listed species are not present in the area that would be modified by project implementation.
    - iii. Implement Species-Specific Mitigation. The Regional Parks Department will coordinate with the appropriate regulatory agency for the particular species of concern, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for federal-listed species and the California Department of Fish and Game for state-listed species. The Species-Specific Mitigation will be based on current protocols and information. See Mitigation Measure 12.
  - c. Further Mitigation Required – Species Present. If sensitive species are found, including federal and/or state-listed species, the Regional Parks Department will either:
    - i. Modify Project Design. The Regional Parks Department will evaluate project design for modifications that would avoid habitat for federal and/or state-listed species.
    - ii. Implement Species-Specific Mitigation. The Regional Parks Department will coordinate with the appropriate regulatory agency for the particular species of concern, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for federal-listed species and the California Department of Fish and Game for state-listed species. The Species-Specific Mitigation will be based on current protocols and information. The Mitigation Plan will be approved by the appropriate agency prior to construction if created for a federal or state-listed species. See Mitigation Measure 12.
12. The Regional Parks Department will prepare a Site Restoration Plan if the project cannot be redesigned to avoid impacts to special-status plant species. The object would be to replace the species and habitat lost during project implementation. The proposed restoration program would be monitored for a period of five years from the date of site grading. The restoration plan would contain minimally contain the following:
  - a) Location of the areas on site to restore lost plant populations.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- b) Description of the propagation and planting techniques to be employed in the restoration effort. Plants to be impacted should be salvaged and raised in a greenhouse for eventual transplanting within the restoration areas.
  - c) A time-table for implementation of the restoration plan, including pilot-phase studies.
  - d) A monitoring plan and performance criteria.
  - e) Description of remedial measures to be performed in the event that initial restoration measures are unsuccessful in meeting the performance criteria.
  - f) Description of site maintenance activities to follow restoration activities. These may include weed control, irrigation, and control of herbivory by livestock and wildlife.
13. The Contractor will be required to maintain a buffer zone during construction. Prior to construction, any populations of special status plant species would be identified by the Regional Parks Department during the pre-construction surveys. The buffer zone would be established around areas to be protected and would be of a sufficient size to eliminate potential disturbance to the plants from human activity and any other potential sources of disturbance. Temporary fences would be constructed between construction activities and populations of special-status plants.

**Mitigation Measures – Special Status Fish:** *Degradation of water quality from construction activities associated with the boat ramp and portages could affect special-status fish spawning habitat. Mitigation Measure number 10 would provide suitable mitigation for special status fish.*

**California Red-Legged Frog:** *The Biotic Assessment identified potential habitat for California red-legged frog and also concluded that the potential for the frog to occur on the project site is low. There are no known populations of California red-legged frog documented within five miles of the project site, and high numbers of bullfrogs, a potential predator of the California red-legged frog, were observed in Lake Wilson and Lake Benoist. Currently, California red-legged frog is a state species of special concern in the project area and the loss of individuals due to project construction would be considered “take” under the Federal Endangered Species Act. This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures.*

**Mitigation Measures – California Red-Legged Frog**

- 14. The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist, will conduct a pre-construction survey for California red-legged frog within the potential impact area before construction begins. Protocols current at the time of construction will be utilized if the protocol included in this mitigation measure is dated. Pre-construction surveys will comprise a series of surveys including two at night and two during the day, starting with a day visit two weeks prior to construction. The last survey will be the night before vegetation removal. If California red-legged frogs are found on the site, the Regional Parks Department will contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. No construction related activities would begin until either the frog(s) are allowed to leave the site naturally or the USFWS provides guidance to move the frog(s) to a designated location.
- 15. The Contractor will remove all ground cover vegetation within the potential impact area within the riparian, wetlands, and aquatic habitats by hand using non-motorized implements immediately after the last nocturnal survey and just prior to the initiation of construction.
- 16. The Regional Parks Department will conduct an educational training session for all construction personnel including a description of the California red-legged frog, its habitat, and take-minimization measures incorporated into the project.
- 17. The Contractor will be required to implement Mitigation Measures 6 – 10 to maintain water quality at the site during construction.

**Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog:** *The Biotic Assessment identified suitable habitat for Foothill yellow-legged frog within the project site and concluded that the potential for the frog to occur on site is low. There are known populations of California red-legged frog documented within five miles of the project site, and high numbers of bullfrogs, a potential predator of the California red-legged frog, were observed. Construction disturbance to frog habitat could result in the incidental loss of the frogs. This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures.*

**Mitigation Measures – Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog**

18. The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist, will conduct a pre-construction survey for Foothill yellow-legged frog within the potential impact area before construction begins. These surveys will be combined with the pre-construction surveys for California red-legged frog and current survey protocols will be utilized. If Foothill yellow-legged frogs are found during the pre-construction surveys, the Regional Parks Department will notify the California Department of Fish and Game. If possible, and without injury, individual Foothill yellow-legged frogs will be captured and moved to a safe location by a qualified biologist, at least 500 feet away from the area of potential impact. The biologist will be required to notify the Regional Parks Department, who will have the authority to halt construction activity in the immediate area to avoid harming the frogs, if present, until individuals are safely captured and relocated.
19. The Regional Parks Department will monitor potential habitat for Foothill yellow-legged frog during vegetation removal to assure that any frogs that may be present are safely relocated. The Regional Parks Department will halt construction activity in the immediate area to avoid harming the frogs, if present, until individuals are safely captured and relocated.
20. The Regional Parks Department will conduct an educational training session for all construction personnel including a description of the Foothill yellow-legged frog, its habitat, and take minimization measures incorporated into the project.

**Northwestern Pond Turtle:** *The Biotic Assessment identified potential foraging, breeding, and over-wintering habitat for northwestern pond turtles on the project site. Construction disturbance during the breeding or over-wintering season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs, hatchlings, or adult turtles. This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures.*

21. The Regional Parks Department will schedule construction activities in the mixed riparian habitat outside of the over-wintering period (October 1 - mid-April) to avoid potential impacts to turtles that may be over-wintering in the leaf duff.
22. The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified herpetologist, will conduct a pre-construction survey of the upland habitats of the project site to assess their suitability for nesting. If the herpetologist observes evidence of nesting turtles, or otherwise determines the habitat suitable for nesting, an exclusion fence will be installed prior to any construction activities. The exclusion fence would be installed during the non-nesting season (mid-August – May) and would be positioned to prevent turtles from nesting in the upland habitat. The exclusion fence would be 18-inches high, constructed of silt fence, and buried six inches below the soil surface.

**Nesting Raptors:** *The Biotic Assessment identified suitable breeding sites for bald eagles, osprey, Cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, spotted owls, and long-eared owls on the project site and on lands adjacent to the project site. During the field survey, a single great horned owl was observed in the Redwood Grove displaying behavior typical of a nesting female. The Biotic Assessment concluded that the owl could have an active nest on or very near the project site. Several osprey were also observed perching in the redwood trees for prolonged periods, adjacent to Lake Benoit. Construction activities such as tree removal and site grading could disturb a nesting special-status raptor, which could result in the loss of fertile eggs or nest abandonment. This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures.*



### **Mitigation Measures – Nesting Raptors**

23. The Regional Parks Department will schedule construction activities in the mixed riparian habitat outside of the nesting period (January - August) to the extent feasible.
24. The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist or ornithologist, will conduct pre-construction surveys to ensure that no raptor nests will be disturbed during project construction, if construction cannot be scheduled between September and December. Protocols current at the time of the survey will be utilized. Current protocols now require that the pre-construction survey be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction activities during the early part of the breeding season, January through April, and no more than 30 days prior to the initiation of these activities during the late part of the breeding season, May through August. All trees will be inspected in and immediately adjacent to the impact areas for raptor nests. If an active nest is found in reasonably close proximity to the construction area, the ornithologist, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game, will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest.

**Nesting Double-Crested Cormorants and Great Blue Heron:** *The Biotic Assessment identified potential nesting habitat for double-crested cormorant in the areas adjacent to aquatic habitats in the project area, and observed individual double-crested cormorants on Lake Wilson and Lake Benoit. The Biotic Assessment also identified suitable roosting habitat for great blue heron in the redwood forest and the mixed evergreen forest. Great blue heron was observed in this habitat during field survey. Construction activities such as tree removal and site grading could disturb a roost site of either species either on site or immediately adjacent to the site, which could result in the loss of fertile eggs or nest abandonment. This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures.*

### **Mitigation Measures - Nesting Double-Crested Cormorants and Great Blue Heron**

25. The Regional Parks Department will schedule construction activities in the mixed riparian habitat outside of the nesting period (March - August) to the extent feasible.
26. The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist or ornithologist, will conduct pre-construction surveys to ensure that no nests for double-crested cormorant or great blue heron will be disturbed during project construction, if construction cannot be scheduled between September and March. Protocols current at the time of the survey will be utilized. Current protocols now require that the pre-construction survey be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction activities during the early part of the breeding season, January through April, and no more than 30 days prior to the initiation of these activities during the late part of the breeding season, May through August. All trees will be inspected in and immediately adjacent to the impact areas for raptor nests. If an active nest is found in reasonably close proximity to the construction area, the ornithologist, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game, will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest.

- b) **Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

*Development of some of the proposed park improvements, including the Lake Trail around Lake Benoit and the Marsh Trail to Lake Wilson, would result in the loss of approximately 0.90 acre of "Mixed Riparian Forest" as mapped in the Biotic Assessment. Although no trees would be removed in the "Mixed Riparian Forest," the habitat itself would be impacted. (Source 1, 9) This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures: (Source 1, 9)*

### **Mitigation Measures**

27. The Regional Parks Department will design, construct, and operate proposed improvements to avoid impacts to Mixed Riparian Forest, including riparian understory, to the maximum extent feasible.

28. The Regional Parks Department will replace the permanent loss of mixed riparian forest habitat on-site at a minimum ratio of 3:1 (mitigation:impact) to create a high quality willow riparian habitat. The Regional Parks Department will coordinate on-site mixed riparian forest mitigation with the Sonoma County Water Agency and the appropriate regulatory agencies, such as the California Department of Fish and Game. Enhancement of existing stands of "Mixed Riparian Forest" habitat or creation of new stands may be considered. The Regional Parks Department will prepare a Habitat Restoration Plan that would minimally include:

- Replacement of lost acreage of mixed riparian forest habitat.
- Location of on-site restoration opportunities. Potential opportunities may exist along the bank of the Russian River and along the shorelines of Lake Wilson and Lake Benoist.
- Analysis of the technical approach to a successful restoration including planting material (salvage from impacted trees if feasible), planting methods, use of soil amendments (if necessary), irrigation, and maintenance.
- Monitoring Plan including performance criteria. Minimally, the habitat replacement would be monitored for a period of 3 years and would be expected to achieve 75 percent success by Year 3.

c) **Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?**

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

*The proposed project would result in the loss of approximately 0.20 acres of three separate seasonal wetlands as mapped in the Biotic Assessment, including potential loss of "Freshwater Marsh" habitat to develop the Marsh Trail in Phase IV. (Source 1, 9) This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures:*

**Mitigation Measures**

29. The Regional Parks Department will design, construct, and operate proposed improvements to avoid impacts to wetlands and marsh vegetation associated with the Russian River, Lake Wilson, and Lake Benoist to the maximum extent feasible. Best Management Practices specified in other mitigation measures, such as timing of construction activities (Mitigation Measure 43), sediment and erosion control (Mitigation Measures 7, 8, 9, 44, 45), construction methods (Mitigation Measure 31), and habitat restoration (Mitigation Measure 30) will be implemented.

30. The Regional Parks Department will replace the permanent loss of seasonal wetlands habitat on-site along the margins of Lake Wilson. Impacted seasonal wetlands will be replaced at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (mitigation:impact) and impacted freshwater marsh will be replaced at a ratio of 2:1 (mitigation:impact) The Regional Parks Department will coordinate on-site seasonal wetland and freshwater marsh replacement with the Sonoma County Water Agency and the appropriate regulatory agencies, such as the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Regional Parks Department will prepare a Wetland Restoration Plan that would minimally include:

- Replacement of lost acreage of seasonal wetland and freshwater marsh habitat
- Location of on-site restoration opportunities
- Analysis of the technical approach to create high quality wetlands including excavation elevations, location of hydrologic connections and soil amendments (if necessary), planting, and maintenance
- Monitoring Plan including performance criteria. Minimally, the constructed seasonal wetlands and freshwater marsh would be monitored for a period of 5 years and would be expected to achieve 80 percent cover by native plant species by Year 5.

Construction of the proposed project could generate surplus soils for disposal off-site. Improper disposal of this material could affect off-site wetlands or other sensitive habitats. (Source 1) This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures.

### Mitigation Measures

31. The contractor will be required to comply with regulations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding construction activities that affect drainages.
32. The contractor will be required to dispose of surplus soils at an acceptable disposal site. If any areas outside the project site are used for disposal or stockpiling of soil or other materials, the contractor will be required to demonstrate that the site has all the required permits, including, if applicable, a grading permit through the County of Sonoma and regulatory permits through the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The contractor will be required to provide evidence to the County that the site does not affect wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, or that the site has the appropriate permits from these agencies.
33. The contractor will be required to dispose of surplus concrete rubble or pavement at an acceptable and legally permitted disposal site or taken to a permitted concrete and/or asphalt recycling facility.

**d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is not expected to interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Construction of the proposed project would result in the disturbance of aquatic and terrestrial habitats however; this disturbance would be a relatively small percentage of the overall project area and is not expected to affect the movement or nursery use of wildlife. The proposed project does not include work in the Russian River itself therefore the movement and nursery use of the Russian River for these species would not be impacted. (Source 9, 12)*

**e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*Construction of the restroom proposed in Phase II would require the removal of up to nine California bay laurel trees. This is a species included in the list of protected trees pursuant to the Sonoma County Tree Protection and Replacement Ordinance No. 4014. (Source 10) Few, if any, or the removed trees would have a breast height diameter of nine inches or greater, which would trigger the Ordinance. The applicable construction and mitigation standards included in Ordinance No. 4014 have been incorporated into the mitigation measures included in this Section of the Checklist.*

### Mitigation Measures

34. Regional Parks staff will clearly identify trees that will require removal for development of the public parking facility on the construction drawings. The contractor will be required to clearly mark in the field the trees that will be removed for trail development.
35. Regional Parks staff will clearly identify the protected perimeter of the redwood and California bay laurel trees on the construction drawings. The protected perimeter is defined in Sonoma County Ordinance No. 4014 as the tree dripline.
36. The contractor will be required to place temporary protective fencing at the outermost edge of the protected perimeter of each tree or group of trees to be protected. Protective fencing will be placed prior to commencement of construction and will remain in place until all construction-related activities are complete. The contractor will be required to avoid disturbance within the protected perimeter during construction of the proposed project. Construction-related activities including storing equipment, chemicals, spoil materials, trash, parking vehicles or equipment, may not take place within the protective fencing.
37. The contractor will be required to perform all tree trimming and branch removal in accordance with the International Society of Arborists Tree Pruning Guidelines, adopted in 1995. These standards require that (a) branches are cut cleanly, utilizing pruning shears, loppers, or a fine tooth saw that cuts on the pull stroke; (b) branches are cut just outside the branch bark ridge or at the callus shoulder, and at a point of junction with

another branch to avoid leaving a limb section without live leaf support; (c) climbing spurs cannot be worn when performing work on any tree, and (d) trees will not be “headed.”

38. Regional Parks staff may require a certified arborist to be on-site to direct pruning cuts on large limbs and to ensure that necessary pruning cuts are made to balance the weight of the tree.
39. The contractor will be required to report any damage to protected trees that occurs during, or as a result of, project construction to Regional Parks staff. If a protected tree is damaged so that it cannot be preserved in a healthy state, the tree will be replaced in accordance with the Arboreal Value Chart included in Sonoma County Ordinance No. 4014.

**f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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*The proposed project would not conflict with adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan in Sonoma County because none are known to be applicable to the project site. The proposed project would not conflict with the Reclamation Plan being implemented by the Sonoma County Water Agency. (Source 1)*

## 5. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:

### a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*There are no known historical resources on the site (Source 13). Historic resources could be uncovered during construction. This less than significant impact can be further reduced with implementation of the following mitigation measure:*

#### Mitigation Measure

40. If historical, archaeological, paleontological, or other types of cultural resources are discovered during project construction, construction will cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until a qualified archaeologist is consulted to determine the significance of the find and has recommended appropriate measures to protect the resource.

### b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*There are no known archaeological resources within the site (Source 13). Archaeological resources could be uncovered during construction. This less than significant impact can be further reduced with implementation of the mitigation measure included in checklist item 5a:*

### c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*There are no known paleontological resources within the site (Source 1, 13). An area having an unique geologic feature has been located within the property. None of the proposed park improvements are expected to impact the unique geologic feature. Paleontological resources and/or unique geologic features could be discovered during construction. Regarding paleontological resources, this less than significant impact can be further reduced with implementation of the mitigation measure included in checklist item 5a. Regarding unique geologic features, this less than significant impact can be further reduced with implementation of the following mitigation measure:*

#### Mitigation Measure

41. If unique geologic features are discovered during project construction, construction will cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until a qualified geologist is consulted to determine the significance of the feature and has recommended appropriate measures to protect the resource.

### d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*There are no known burial grounds or cemeteries located within the project area (Source 1, 131). Human remains could be discovered during construction. This less than significant impact could be further reduced with implementation of the following mitigation measure:*

#### Mitigation Measure

42. In the event that human remains are unearthed during construction, the County Coroner will be notified to investigate the nature and circumstances of the discovery as required by State law. At the time of discovery, work in the immediate vicinity would cease until the Coroner permits work to proceed.

## 6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:

### a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

iv) Landslides?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to increase exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving earthquake, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure such as liquefaction, or landslides. The proposed project includes three small appurtenant structures (restroom, well house, information kiosk), none of which would be habitable. Proposed park improvements, such as the trails, parking areas, and boat ramp and launches could be damaged in a seismic event, but this would not be expected to result in a substantial adverse effect to people. (Source 1)*

*A small portion of the project site is mapped as being within the Alquist-Priolo Geologic Hazards Special Study Zone however; this is not expected to result in potential substantial adverse effects to structures or people. The project area has a moderate to high potential for liquefaction, and a small portion of the project site, in the Redwood Grove area, is mapped as having a moderate to high potential for landslides. (Source 2) The proposed park improvements are not expected to render liquefaction or landslides more likely, therefore; exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects from these natural events is not likely.*

### b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Most of the proposed park improvements would occur on bare ground, which has already been removed of topsoil. Most of the proposed park improvements would occur on relatively flat topography and substantial soil erosion is unlikely to result. The restroom and well house in the Redwood Grove would both be developed on a slope. Although substantial soil erosion is not expected to result from development of these proposed park improvements, implementation of the following mitigation measures would minimize potential soil erosion. (Source 1, 16, 18)*

#### Mitigation Measures

43. Regional Parks will schedule construction activities to the dry season, April 30 – October 15, whenever feasible.

44. The Contractor will be required to install erosion control measures in conjunction with construction plans. The erosion control plan will include temporary, construction-related erosion control measures. Temporary erosion control measures may include, but not be limited to, staking a jute mesh mat over a straw layer over disturbed areas and placing straw bales at all drain inlets in accordance with the Manual of Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control Measures (Association of Bay Area Governments, June 1981. The erosion control plan will include measures for construction during the wet season, October 15 – April 30 such as hydro-seed all disturbed areas, including stockpile areas, by October 15 with a seed mix specified by the County.

45. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will inspect the project site following the first heavy rain, during the middle of the rainy season and at the end of the rainy season following construction to monitor improvements. During each visit, areas of significant erosion or erosion control device failure shall be noted and appropriate remedial actions taken.

- c) **Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to increase the potential for on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. A portion of the site is mapped as having a moderate to high potential for liquefaction and a small portion of the project site, in the Redwood Grove area, is mapped as having a moderate to high potential for landslides, however; the majority of proposed park improvements would occur on relatively level topography and are not expected to render liquefaction or landslides more likely, therefore; exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects landslides is not likely. (Source 1, 2, 15, 17)*

- d) **Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-I-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project does not include habitable structures and is not expected to create substantial risks to life or property. The most prevalent soil type on the project site are the Yolo Series soils, which have a low to moderate shrink-swell potential and should have a low expansion potential. A small portion of the project site, in the Redwood Grove, consists of Steinbeck Series soils, which also have a low to moderate shrink-swell potential. The remaining soil types are too variable to quantify shrink-swell potential. The proposed project includes three small appurtenant structures (restroom, well house, information kiosk), none of which would be habitable. Proposed park improvements, such as the trails, parking areas, and boat ramp and launches are not expected to create substantial risks to life or property. (Source 1, 16)*

- e) **Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project includes development of a restroom with an in-ground holding tank that will be pumped out on a regular basis. This proposed park improvement would be located on Steinbeck Series soils, which have a moderate to severe limitation of septic tanks and filter fields due to moderate permeability and slopes. The restroom would utilize a double-containment in-ground holding tank that would fully contain liquid and solid waste, and would be pumped out on a regular basis. No waste would be contained in a leachfield, generally associated with a septic tank type of system. The Steinbeck Series soils have a low to moderate shrink-swell potential and are expected to be adequate for supporting the double-containment in-ground holding tank. (Source 1, 16)*

## 7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is not expected to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials because the proposed project would not require the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. No motorized boats will be allowed in the lakes. (Source 1)*

- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

*Construction activities will require use of vehicles, construction equipment, and construction materials that use hazardous materials such as motor oil and gasoline, which have the potential for accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. (Source 1). This potentially significant impact can be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of the following mitigation measures:*

### Mitigation Measures

46. The contractor will be required to prepare, submit, and implement a spill prevention plan for any construction of the proposed project. The contractor will be required to follow the provisions of Sections 5163 – 5167 of the General Industry Safety Orders (CCR Title 8) to protect the project site from being contaminated by the accidental release of any hazardous materials and/or waste. The contractor will be required to store all flammable liquids be in compliance with the Sonoma County Fire Code and section 7-1.01G of the Caltrans Standard Specification (or the functional equivalent) for the protection of surface waters. If hazardous materials are encountered during construction, the contractor will immediately halt construction activities will halt immediately and will implement actions required by the current California regulatory requirements. In the event of a spill of hazardous materials the Contractor will immediately call the emergency number 9-1-1 to report the spill, and will take appropriate actions to contain the spill to prevent further migration of the hazardous materials to stormwater drains or surface waters.
47. The contractor will be required to dispose of petroleum-based products in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. If a spill should occur, the contractor will be required to immediately call 9-1-1 and report the spill to the appropriate authority. The contractor will be prohibited from conducting vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance on-site.

*Maintenance of the proposed project may required the occasional use of vehicles and equipment that use hazardous materials such as motor oil and gasoline, which have the potential for accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. (Source 1)*

### Mitigation Measure

48. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department operations and maintenance crews will be required to dispose of petroleum-based products in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. If a spill should occur, Parks staff will immediately call 9-1-1 and report the spill to the appropriate authority. Parks staff will be prohibited from conducting vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance on-site.

*Portable restrooms are removed from flood-prone facilities during the flood season. Maintenance of the portable restrooms or the permanent restroom could result in a sewage spill. This potentially significant impact can be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of the following mitigation measures: (Source 1)*

### Mitigation Measures

49. The contractor will be required to conduct inspections and maintenance, according to current regulations, of portable toilet facilities used during construction. The contractor will be required to conduct routine waste removal to ensure that effluent spills are avoided or minimized.
50. Regional Parks staff or agent will be required to conduct inspections and maintenance, according to current regulations, of portable toilet facilities used during project operation. Regional Parks staff or agent will ensure that routine waste removal is conducted so that effluent spills are avoided or minimized.



- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*There are no known schools within one-quarter mile of the project site. The nearest schools are over two miles from the project area. (Source 1)*

- d) **Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is not expected to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. The project area is not located on a site that is included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. (Source 24)*

- e) **For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is not expected to result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. The nearest airport, the Sonoma County Airport, is located over two miles southwesterly of the project area. (Source 1)*

- f) **For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is not expected to result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. There are no known private airstrips located within the vicinity of the project area. (Source 1)*

- g) **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to impair implementation of or physically interfere with the County's adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. There are no known adopted emergency response or evacuation plans specific to the project area. The Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services is the lead agency under the State of California's Standardized Emergency Management System and is responsible for coordination of response and recovery activities following an emergency or disaster such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, and dam failures. (Source 1, 25) Locally, the Windsor Fire Protection District would respond to emergency calls. Based on the result of the Services and Response Study completed by the Regional Parks Department, emergency calls from the project area are not expected to significantly affect the overall number of calls requiring the attention of the Windsor Fire Protection District. (Source 23) The proposed park improvements have been designed to provide adequate emergency access throughout the public recreation areas.*

- h) **Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to increase the exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. A portion of the project area is mapped as having a high to very high potential for wildland fires. (Source 2) Human activity associated with the proposed project, such as smoking or use of fire, could expose wildland areas adjacent to the project area to fires. This is considered a less than significant impact because smoking, playing with fire, and campfires accounted for a relatively small percentage of all fires according to a study conducted regarding the causes of Sonoma County fires in 1996. (Source 26) The proposed project will include a signs stating the park rules, including appropriate use of the barbeques in the*

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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*officially designated areas of the park. The proposed project is located an area with three large water bodies and is adjacent to the Russian River on the west boundary. Access points for emergency fire service are included in the proposed park improvements. The Windsor Fire Protection District provides fire protection services and the California Department of Forestry is responsible for fighting wildland fires. The project area is located in close proximity to the Russian River, a factor that minimize the potential risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. (Source 1) In addition, the proposed parking facility would provide a paved firebreak. This less than significant impact can be reduced further with implementation of the following mitigation measures:*

**Mitigation Measures:**

51. The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department Director may close the trail when there are high fire danger periods or other situations that could pose a threat to the health and safety of those using the facility.

## 8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:

- a) **Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?**

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Construction of the project would include activities that could result in temporary impacts to water quality or waste discharge requirements. (Sources 1, 20) This potentially significant impact can be reduced to less than significant level with implementation of the requiring mitigation measures included under Checklist items 3c, 4a, 6b, and 7b.*

- b) **Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. The project area is mapped as located within a major groundwater recharge area. The total impervious area that could result from implementation of all proposed park improvements is approximately 2.22 acres, which is not expected to result in a substantial interference with groundwater recharge. The parking areas have been designed to include a small portion of impervious paving as all of the spaces, except for the ADA compliant spaces, would be rock base. The proposed project includes development of a new water supply, however; this is not expected to result in a substantial increased use of existing water supplies because the additional water demand is expected to be negligible. (Sources 1, 2, 30)*

- c) **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to result in a substantial alteration of existing drainage patterns or result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The proposed project would include minor changes in drainage patterns, rate, and amount of surface runoff. Approximately 2.22 acre of pavement will be added to the site. The addition of this impervious surfacing would increase the rate of runoff and decrease the on-site absorption rates, however; this is not expected to result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The proposed storm drain crossings are actually expected to reduce erosion and minimize water quality impacts overall. This less than significant impact can be further reduced with implementation of the mitigation measures proposed under Checklist items 4a and 6b. (Source 30)*

- d) **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on-or off-site?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed project is not expected to result in a substantial increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff that would result in on- or off-site flooding. The project area is mapped as within a special flood hazard area inundated by the 100-year flood. Base flood elevations have been determined on the project site at 76 feet above mean sea level. Approximately 2.22 acre of pavement will be added to the site. The addition of this impervious surfacing would increase the rate of runoff and decrease the on-site absorption rates, however; this is not expected to result in substantial alteration of the drainage patterns or increase the rate or amount of surface runoff such that increased flooding would result on- or off-site. Drainage and resultant runoff associated with storm events would be handled by overland sheet drainage and culvert crossings under proposed roads and trails. Existing drainage patterns direct stormwater flows to the three existing lakes. Proposed park improvements are not expected to alter these existing drainage patterns. The minor drainage improvements would include reinforced concrete (RCP) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe culverts and rock slope protection. The purpose of the culverts is to provide recreational use during non-flood events, not to minimize or prevent flooding of the project site during flood events. Parking area, driveway, and multi-use trail improvements would include Storm Water Pollution Plan (SWPPP) Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control non-storm water discharges from vehicles and animals (equestrian and dogs, most likely) related to pollution to storm drains and other water bodies. (Source 30)

- e) **Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?**

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

The proposed project is not expected to create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The proposed project includes porous pavement for some park improvements such as multi-use public trails, paved vehicle access roads, portions of the parking areas, and boat ramp and portages. Petroleum based products may be transported to surface water drainages during rain events. This is not expected to result in a substantial additional source of polluted runoff because petroleum base products from vehicles currently enter the environment from vehicles parked along paved roadway. (Source 30) This less than significant impact can be further reduced with implementation of the mitigation measures proposed under Checklist items 6b and 7b.

- f) **Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed project is not expected to degrade water quality. Erosion control is discussed under Checklist items 4a and 6b. (Source 30)

- g) **Place housing within a 100-year hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The project area is mapped within the 100-year flood hazard area. (Source 28, 30) The proposed project does not include housing. (Source 1)

- h) **Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The project area is mapped within the 100-year flood hazard area. (Source 28) The proposed project includes three structures, a restroom, well house, and kiosk. The restroom and well house will be above the mapped 100-year flood elevation and the kiosk would not be expected to impede or redirect flood flows. (Source 30)

- i) **Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The proposed Riverfront Park would be closed during periods of flooding and the project area is not subject to flash flooding. Exposure of people to water-related hazards during flooding are not expected. The proposed project includes three structures, a restroom, well house, and kiosk. The restroom and well house will be above the mapped 100-year flood elevation. All structures will be constructed of flood-proof materials. (Source 30)

- j) **Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The project area is not mapped as being subject to tsunami or mudflow. (Source 2, 14)

## 9. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:

- a) **Physically divide an established community?** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project would not divide an established community. (Source 1)*

- b) **Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?** ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The existing land use and zoning of the parcels associated with the proposed Riverfront Park would need to be changed to make them consistent with the Public Facilities & Public/Quasi Public land use. This change would occur through the Sonoma County General Plan update, currently in progress, and is the responsibility of the Sonoma County Water Agency as the property owner. (Source 1, 4, 5)*

- c) **Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*There are no known habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans that would apply to the project area. (Source 1)*

## 10. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:

- a) **Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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*The project area is mapped as within a mineral resource deposit, which corresponds with the previous use of the site of gravel mining. There is no current or proposed gravel mineral use on the project site. (Source 1, 5)*

- b) **Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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*The project area is mapped as within a mineral resource deposit, which corresponds with the previous use of the site of gravel mining. There is no current or proposed gravel mineral use on the project site. (Source 1, 5)*

## 11. NOISE Would the project:

- a) **Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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*The proposed project is not expected to result in permanent, long-term exposure of people to noise levels in excess of established standards in the Sonoma County General Plan Table NE-2. Table NE-2 includes a cumulative duration noise standard of 50 decibels (dBA) for a 30 – 60 minute duration during daytime hours (7:00 am – 10:00 pm). Ambient noise is assumed to be 41 dBA at the project site. The anticipated sources of noise associated with park use area would be vehicle traffic and human voices during normal park operation hours, which are shorter than the daytime hours listed in the Table NE-2. Sources of noise such as vehicle traffic and human voices already exist in the project vicinity and are associated with existing traffic on Eastside Road and agricultural activities on adjacent land uses. The proposed project is not expected to increase noise levels above the standards included in the Sonoma County General Plan for the following reasons: (Source 1, 2, 30, 31)*

- 1. The ambient noise level at the project site is more than 5 dBA below the General Plan standards.*
- 2. Anticipated noise sources in association with park use already exist in the project area, such as vehicular traffic and human voices.*
- 3. The proposed project will not introduce new sources of noise to the project area, and specifically, no amplified sound or motorized boats will be allowed.*
- 4. The proposed park would be open to the public during daytime hours only. No overnight camping will be allowed.*
- 5. The nearest residential properties to the project area are (a) approximately 50 feet from the southeast property boundary and 400 feet from any proposed park use, and (b) approximately 350 feet east of the property boundary across Eastside Road. The actual impact of noise from park use would be less than measured on the County's property because the noise measurements would decrease by 6 dBA for every doubling of the distance.*

*The standard mitigation measure that would be proposed to reduce noise impacts to nearby residences is to limit the hours of operation of the proposed facility. This is already incorporated into the project and therefore is not proposed as a separate mitigation measure. The proposed Riverfront Park facility would be open sunrise to sunset, which is consistent with Regional Parks Department policy. This corresponds with the daytime hours included in Sonoma County General Plan Table NE-2 that states daytime hours as 7:00 am – 10:00 pm. The use of vegetation is sometimes proposed as a mitigation measure to reduce potential noise impacts. The proposed project includes tree and shrub planting along the park entrance road and along the property line at the Redwood Grove parking area and therefore is not proposed here as noise mitigation. The primary purpose of the tree planting is to provide visual screening and physical buffer between the County's property and the adjacent property. Additionally, the County's property and the two nearest residential properties to proposed park uses are separated by mature trees and topography.*

- b) **Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

*The proposed project is not expected to result in a permanent, long-term exposure of people to excessive ground borne vibration or noise levels in excess of established standards. Please refer to Checklist item 11d regarding construction-related noise. (Source 1, 2)*

- c) **A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

*The proposed project is not expected to result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above existing noise levels. See response to Checklist Item 11(a).*

- d) **A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

Construction of the proposed project is expected to result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels associated with the operation of construction vehicles and equipment. This temporary increase in ambient noise would be short-term and would cease upon completion of construction. Periodic maintenance activities may result in an occasional temporary increase in ambient noise levels due to the operation of vehicles and equipment. These occurrences would be occasional and the temporary increase in ambient noise associated with maintenance activities would cease upon completion of the activity itself. (Source 1) These less than significant impacts would be further reduced with implementation of the following mitigation measures:

**Mitigation Measures:**

52. The contractor will be required to operate all internal combustion engines with mufflers that meet the requirements of the State Resources Code, and, where applicable, the Vehicle Code.
53. The contractor will be required restrict construction activities to the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, except for actions taken to prevent or resolve an emergency.
54. Sonoma County Regional Parks staff will be required to operate all internal combustion engines with mufflers that meet the requirements of the State Resources Code, and, where applicable, the Vehicle Code.
55. Sonoma County Regional Parks staff will be required restrict maintenance activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except for actions taken to prevent or resolve an emergency.

- e) **For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The project area is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. (Source 1)*

- f) **For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*There are no known private airstrips located within the vicinity of the project area. (Source 1)*



## 12. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

- a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

*The proposed project is not expected to have either a direct or indirect effect on population growth. The proposed project does not include new homes, businesses, road extensions, or other infrastructure that would induce population growth. (Source 1)*

- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

*The proposed project would not displace any existing housing or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. There are no existing homes on the project site. (Source 1)*

- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

*The proposed project would not displace people or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. There are no existing homes on the project site. (Source 1)*

### 13. PUBLIC SERVICES Would the project:

- a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project consists of the construction, operation, and maintenance of a public park facility. The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, a governmental agency, will carry out construction and will provide maintenance of the proposed park. The proposed park is not expected to result in substantial adverse physical impacts, significant environmental impacts, or create the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities. The proposed project is a public park facility. Its addition to the existing network of Sonoma County regional parks is considered a beneficial impact.

The potential for accidental release of hazardous materials during construction or maintenance of the proposed project is discussed under Checklist item 7b. The mitigation measures proposed under Checklist item 7b would reduce this potentially significant impact to a less than significant level. The potential for wildland fires associated with public use of the proposed project is discussed under Checklist item 7h.

The proposed project is not expected to result in significant impacts regarding police protection. Sonoma County Regional Park Rangers would patrol the proposed trail as part of their regular duties. In addition to evaluating the proposed trail for maintenance needs, the proposed trail would be patrolled to protect against crime and vandalism and to enhance public safety. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Department would assist park ranger staff when such assistance is requested. (Source 1)

The proposed project is not expected to result in significant impacts regarding schools or other public facilities. As discussed in Checklist item 12a, the proposed project would not result in population growth and thus would not impact schools or other public facilities.

## 14. RECREATION

Would the project:

- a) **Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

*The proposed project is a recreational facility that is not expected to result in an increase of use that would result in substantial physical deterioration of those existing facilities or to accelerate physical deterioration of those existing facilities. (Source 1)*

- b) **Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

*The proposed project is a recreational facility and would address existing public parkland needs in the North County area as identified in the 1989 General Plan. The proposed park is considered a beneficial impact to Recreation. The proposed project is not expected to result in an adverse physical effect on the environment. (Source 1)*

## 15. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC Would the project:

- a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project is not expected to result in long-term, permanent substantial increased traffic or congestion. The traffic study included an analysis of increased trips that could result from each of the five phases of development of the Park Master Plan. The analysis was based on the estimated numbers of annual visitors to proposed park. Traffic is expected to increase incrementally with each successive phase of park development and the existing street system is able to accommodate the traffic increase. (Source 29)*

*Short-term, construction-related impacts on local traffic may occur. (Source 1) This less-than-significant impact can be further reduced with implementation of the following mitigation measures:*

### Mitigation Measures

56. The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will notify residents adjacent to the project area and local emergency services at least one week prior to commencement of construction.
57. The contractor will be required to place appropriate signage at the project entrance and on major intersections to notify motorists that traffic may be subject to delay, if lengthy delays are anticipated.
58. The contractor will be required to maintain access to all residences during construction.
59. The contractor will be required to comply with the Caltrans "Manual of Traffic Safety Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones" regarding traffic safety guidelines during construction. The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department will require, in the project plans and specifications, that the contractor provide adequate signage and precautions for public safety during project construction.

- b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is not expected to result in a level of service that exceeds established standards. The Traffic Study concluded that the level-of-service expected from full development of the proposed Riverfront Park would not require a left-turn lane, or other improvement, on Eastside Road. (Source 29)*

- c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns, including an increase in air traffic levels or change in location (Source 1)*

- d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project would not increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses. The proposed project does not include work within the public road system, except for the placement of "No Parking Signs" along Eastside Road. The traffic study concluded that the proposed project did not identify any improvements, such as a left-turn storage lane on Eastside Road or improvements to nearby intersections, as needed in association with full development of the proposed Park Master Plan. (Source 1, 29)*

*The proposed Park Master Plan would provide recreational facilities for a variety of uses, including hiking, picnicing, bicycle riding, and boat usage. The design of the road network, parking areas, and trails within the proposed Park Master Plan has considered the multi-use nature of the facility and has incorporated design elements to avoid incompatibility of the various uses. (Source 1)*

- e) **Result in inadequate emergency access?** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access. Emergency access, including access to Lakes Wilson and Benoist for emergency fire services and the width of vehicle access roads, has been incorporated into the proposed park improvements. (Source 1)*

- f) **Result in inadequate parking capacity?** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project includes a total of four parking areas to provide a total of 134 parking spaces, eight of which would be ADA compliant spaces, and a total of 10 parallel trailer spaces for equestrian trailers. This is expected to provide adequate parking for the proposed park. (Source 1)*

- g) **Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is not expected to conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs that support alternative transportation. Bike racks would be provided at the picnic areas. (Source 1)*

## 16. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is not expected to exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The proposed project would be served by portable restrooms and a permanent restroom with a double-containment, in-ground holding tank that would be pumped out on a regular basis. (Source 1)*

- b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

*The proposed project includes a permanent restroom with a double-containment, in-ground holding tank that would be pumped out on a regular basis and potable water well. Neither of these proposed park improvements is expected to result in significant environmental effects. Construction-related effects are discussed in previous sections of this Checklist. (Source 1)*

- c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project would include minor storm water drainage improvements; including drainage swales to filter runoff from the parking areas before entering the surface waters and storm drain crossings. Both of these types of improvements are expected to provide beneficial environmental effects to water quality. (Source 1, 30)*

- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project includes development of potable water well to provide drinking and irrigation water. This proposed park improvement is not expected to adversely affect water supplies from existing entitlements and resources because the increase in water demand is expected to be negligible. The Regional Parks Department would apply for a public water system permit from the California Department of Health. (Source 1)*

- e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project would be served by portable and one permanent restroom that would utilize a double-containment, in-ground holding tank and would be pumped out on a regular basis. The service provider would be Port-O-San, who would haul the waste to a the East Bay Municipal Utility District wastewater treatment facility in Oakland. There are no capacity limits for Port-O-San at this facility. (Source 1)*

- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*Park users are expected to generate a minimal amount of solid waste, which would be deposited in trash receptacles located throughout the proposed park facility. The landfill has sufficient capacity to accommodate the solid waste generated at the park facility. (Source 1)*

- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

*The proposed project is expected to comply with federal, state, and local regulations related to solid waste. (Source 1)*

## 17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

*The proposed project, with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, is not expected to degrade the quality of the environment or substantially impact biotic, archaeological, or historic resources. Construction activities may create short-term impacts to residents in close proximity to the project area. The proposed mitigation measures are expected to reduce these potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.*

- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

*The proposed project, with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, is not expected to result in cumulatively considerable impacts.*

- c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

*The proposed project, with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, is not expected to result in environmental impacts that would cause substantial adverse direct or indirect effects on human beings. Construction activities are expected to create short-term impacts to residents in close proximity to the project area. The proposed mitigation measures are expected to reduce these potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.*

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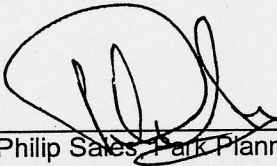


## DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation and the recommendation of the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a Negative Declaration will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A Mitigated Negative Declaration will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment and an Environmental Impact Report is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project may have a potentially significant impact or potentially significant unless mitigated impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An Environmental Impact Report is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Philip Sales, Park Planning and Design Administrator  
Sonoma County Regional Parks Department

Date: March 29, 2004



## **Appendix A**

### **Mitigation Monitoring Plan**

# PROPOSED MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

Pursuant to Section 21081.6 of the State CEQA Guidelines<sup>1</sup>, the mitigation measures listed in the Proposed Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) are to be implemented as part of the proposed project. The Proposed MMP identifies the time at which each mitigation measure is to be implemented and the person or department responsible for implementation. The initials of the designated responsible person will indicate completion of their portion of the mitigation measure. The Regional Parks Environmental Specialist or Park Planner's signature on the Certification of Compliance will indicate complete implementation of the Proposed MMP.

The mitigation measures included in the Proposed MMP are considered conditions of approval of the proposed project. The Regional Parks Department agrees to implement the mitigation measures proposed in the MMP. Implementation of the mitigation measures included in the Proposed MMP are expected to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

## Time of Implementation

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Project Design:    | The mitigation measure will be incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project. |
| Pre Construction:  | The mitigation measure will be implemented before construction activities begin.  |
| Construction:      | The mitigation measure will be implemented during construction.   |
| Post Construction: | The mitigation measure will be implemented after project construction.  |

## Responsible Persons and Departments

The Regional Parks Department Environmental Specialist, Project Planner, and Planning Technician will be responsible for the overall implementation of the MMP. Generally, the Regional Parks Department Environmental Specialist, Project Planner, and Planning Technician will sign off on the mitigation measures included in the MMP. Periodically, staff of other County departments or regulatory agencies will be involved in the implementation of specific mitigation measures. In these instances, the staff, department, or agency will be identified in the MMP.

## Certification of Compliance

The Regional Parks Department Environmental Specialist, Park Planner, and Planning Technician will be responsible for providing signatures on the Certification of Compliance. The Certification of Compliance is a "double-check" to ensure that the MMP was fully implemented.

## Record Keeping

The Regional Parks Department Environmental Specialist, Project Planner, and Planning Technician will maintain the records of the MMP. When the MMP is fully implemented, the original signed copy will be maintained in the official Project Binder.

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<sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 14.

## CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

Complete the Certification of Compliance after mitigation measures have all been initialed. Use this Certification of Compliance to "double-check" the full implementation of each mitigation measure.

**Design:** The Regional Parks Department Environmental Specialist and/or the Project Planner has reviewed the project design, the plans, and the contract special provisions to verify that designated mitigation measures have been incorporated.

Regional Parks staff signature & job title				Date			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	Cult. Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 41	Cult. Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 42	Cult. Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 43	Geo. And Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 44	Geo. And Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 46	Hazards / Hazmat
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 33	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 47	Hazards/ Hazmat
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 49	Hazards/ Hazmat
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 52	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 36	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 53	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 37	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 57	Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 38	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 58	Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 39	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 59	Transportation

**Pre-Construction:** The Regional Parks Department Environmental Specialist and/or the Project Planner has verified that designated mitigation measures were implemented prior to construction activities.

Regional Parks staff signature & job title				Date			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 44	Geo. And Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 45	Geo. And Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 46	Hazards/HazMat
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 56	Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 36	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 58	Traffic

**Construction:** The Regional Parks Department Environmental Specialist and/or the Project Planner has verified that designated mitigation measures were implemented during construction.

Regional Parks staff signature & job title				Date			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 41	Cult. Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 42	Cult. Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 43	Geo. And Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 44	Geo. And Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 46	Hazards/HazMat
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 33	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 47	Hazards/HazMat
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 49	Hazards/HazMat
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 36	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 52	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 37	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 53	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 38	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 57	Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 39	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 58	Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	Cult. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 59	Traffic

**Post-Construction:** The Regional Parks Department Environmental Specialist and/or the Project Planner has verified that designated mitigation measures were implemented after construction. Mitigation measures pertaining to maintenance activities have been incorporated into Resource Management Plan.

Regional Parks staff signature & job title				Date			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 50	Hazards/ HazMat
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 51	Hazards/ HazMat
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 45	Geo. And Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> 54	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Bio. Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 48	Hazards/ HazMat	<input type="checkbox"/> 55	Noise

# AIR QUALITY

**Mitigation Measure 1:** The contractor will be required to spray water or dust palliative on unpaved construction and staging areas during construction as directed by the County during construction of the proposed project. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to spray water or dust palliative on unpaved areas as needed during maintenance activities.

## Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Post Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Mitigation Measure 2:** The contractor will be required to cover loads of soil, sand, and other loose materials over public roads, keep the loads at least two feet below the level of the sides of the hauling container, and wet the load sufficiently to prevent dust emissions during construction of the proposed project. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to cover loads of soil, sand, and other loose materials over public roads, keep the loads at least two feet below the level of the sides of the hauling container, and wet the load sufficiently to prevent dust emissions as needed during maintenance activities.

## Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Post Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Mitigation Measure 3:** The contractor will be required to sweep paved roads as needed to remove soil that has been carried onto them from the project site during construction. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to sweep paved roads as needed to remove soil that has been carried onto them from the project site due to maintenance activities.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Post Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Mitigation Measure 4:** The contractor will be required to apply water or other dust palliative to stockpiles of soil as needed to control dust during construction. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to apply water or other dust palliative to stockpiles of soil as needed to control dust during maintenance activities.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Post Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials* *Date*

**Mitigation Measure 5:** The contractor will be required to operate all construction vehicles and equipment with emission levels that meet current air quality standards and to minimize idling time for all heavy equipment to reduce on-site emissions during construction. Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will be required to operate all construction vehicles and equipment with emission levels that meet current air quality standards and to minimize idling time for all heavy equipment to reduce on-site emissions during maintenance activities.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Post Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials*

*Date*

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Mitigation Measure 6:** The Contractor will be required to sweep and/or wash all active paved construction areas daily. Water used for washing the paved areas will not be allowed to drain directly to the Russian River.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 7:** The Contractor will be required, as part of the sediment control plan, that an impermeable barrier be installed to retain sediment on the project site and prevent sediment from washing into the adjacent wetlands and aquatic habitats.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*



**Mitigation Measure 8:** The Contractor will be required to provide temporary cover to all erodable disturbed surfaces to minimize erosion.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 9:** The Contractor will be required to provide permanent cover to all disturbed surfaces that are exposed to precipitation and hold the potential for runoff. Revegetation is a suitable permanent cover.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 10:** The Contractor will be required to restrict work within or immediately adjacent to the Russian River to the dry season to minimize potential water quality impacts.

- a) The Contractor will be required to implement the following recommendations by the California Department of Fish and Game for work in all watercourses, whether or not the watercourse is dewatered, to minimize potential water quality impacts.
- b) No equipment will be operated in the live stream channel
- c) When work in a flowing stream is unavoidable, any stream flow will be diverted around the work area by a barrier, temporary culvert, or a new channel capable of permitting upstream and downstream fish movement.
- d) Construction of the barrier or the new channel will normally begin in the downstream area and continue in an upstream direction and the flow will be diverted only when construction of the diversion is completed.
- e) No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, cement, concrete, washings, petroleum products, or other organic or earthen material will be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into Waters of the State.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 11:** The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist, will conduct pre-construction surveys during the appropriate blooming periods to determine: 1) if any of these species occur within the project site, 2) the quality, location, and extent of any populations, and 3) existing habitat that could support a federal or state-listed species. Based on the results of the pre-construction surveys, one of the following actions will be implemented.

- a) No Further Mitigation Necessary. If no sensitive species are present and if the biologist determines that the existing habitat is not likely to support federal and/or state-listed species, then no further mitigation is necessary.
- b) Further Mitigation Required – Habitat Present. If no federal and/or state-listed species are observed within an area that would be modified by project implementation but suitable habitat exists that would support federal and/or state-listed species, the Regional Parks Department will either:
  - i) Modify Project Design. The Regional Parks Department will evaluate project design for modifications that would avoid habitat for federal and/or state-listed species.
  - ii) Delay Construction. The Regional Parks Department will delay construction activities until a protocol survey establishes that federal and/or state-listed species are not present in the area that would be modified by project implementation.
  - iii) Implement Species-Specific Mitigation. The Regional Parks Department will coordinate with the appropriate regulatory agency for the particular species of concern, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for federal-listed species and the California Department of Fish and Game for state-listed species. The Species-Specific Mitigation will be based on current protocols and information. See Mitigation Measure 12.
- c) Further Mitigation Required – Species Present. If sensitive species are found, including federal and/or state-listed species, the Regional Parks Department will either:
  - i) Modify Project Design. The Regional Parks Department will evaluate project design for modifications that would avoid habitat for federal and/or state-listed species.
  - ii) Implement Species-Specific Mitigation. The Regional Parks Department will coordinate with the appropriate regulatory agency for the particular species of concern, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for federal-listed species and the California Department of Fish and Game for state-listed species. The Species-Specific Mitigation will be based on current protocols and information. The Mitigation Plan will be approved by the appropriate agency prior to construction if created for a federal or state-listed species. See Mitigation Measure 12.

## Implementation & Monitoring

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 12:** The Regional Parks Department will prepare a Site Restoration Plan if the project cannot be redesigned to avoid impacts to special-status plant species. The object would be to replace the species and habitat lost during project implementation. The proposed restoration program would be monitored for a period of five years from the date of site grading. The restoration plan would contain minimally contain the following:

- a) Location of the areas on site to restore lost plant populations.
- b) Description of the propagation and planting techniques to be employed in the restoration effort. Plants to be impacted should be salvaged and raised in a greenhouse for eventual transplanting within the restoration areas.
- c) A time-table for implementation of the restoration plan, including pilot-phase studies.
- d) A monitoring plan and performance criteria.
- e) Description of remedial measures to be performed in the event that initial restoration measures are unsuccessful in meeting the performance criteria.
- f) Description of site maintenance activities to follow restoration activities. These may include weed control, irrigation, and control of herbivory by livestock and wildlife.

### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

Initials	Date
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**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

Initials	Date
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**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

Initials	Date
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**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented after construction activities.

Initials	Date
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**Mitigation Measure 13:** The Contractor will be required to maintain a buffer zone during construction. Prior to construction, any populations of special status plant species would be identified by the Regional Parks Department during the pre-construction surveys. The buffer zone would be established around areas to be protected and would be of a sufficient size to eliminate potential disturbance to the plants from human activity and any other potential sources of disturbance. Temporary fences would be constructed between construction activities and populations of special-status plants.

### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

Initials	Date
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**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

Initials	Date
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**Mitigation Measure 14:** The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist, will conduct a pre-construction survey for California red-legged frog within the potential impact area before construction begins. Protocols current at the time of construction will be utilized if the protocol included in this mitigation measure is dated. Pre-construction surveys will comprise a series of surveys including two at night and two during the day, starting with a day visit two weeks prior to construction. The last survey will be the night before vegetation removal. If California red-legged frogs are found on the site, the Regional Parks Department will contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. No construction related activities would begin until either the frog(s) are allowed to leave the site naturally or the USFWS provides guidance to move the frog(s) to a designated location.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Pre-Construction:</b>	Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.	

	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Construction:</b>	Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.	

**Mitigation Measure 15:** The Contractor will remove all ground cover vegetation within the potential impact area within the riparian, wetlands, and aquatic habitats by hand using non-motorized implements immediately after the last nocturnal survey and just prior to the initiation of construction.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Construction:</b>	Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.	

**Mitigation Measure 16:** The Regional Parks Department will conduct an educational training session for all construction personnel including a description of the California red-legged frog, its habitat, and take-minimization measures incorporated into the project.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Pre-Construction:</b>	Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.	

**Mitigation Measure 17:** The Contractor will be required to implement Mitigation Measures 6 – 10 to maintain water quality at the site during construction.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 18:** The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist, will conduct a pre-construction survey for Foothill yellow-legged frog within the potential impact area before construction begins. These surveys will be combined with the pre-construction surveys for California red-legged frog and current survey protocols will be utilized. If Foothill yellow-legged frogs are found during the pre-construction surveys, the Regional Parks Department will notify the California Department of Fish and Game. If possible, and without injury, individual Foothill yellow-legged frogs will be captured and moved to a safe location by a qualified biologist, at least 500 feet away from the area of potential impact. The biologist will be required to notify the Regional Parks Department, who will have the authority to halt construction activity in the immediate area to avoid harming the frogs, if present, until individuals are safely captured and relocated.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 19:** The Regional Parks Department will monitor potential habitat for Foothill yellow-legged frog during vegetation removal to assure that any frogs that may be present are safely relocated. The Regional Parks Department will halt construction activity in the immediate area to avoid harming the frogs, if present, until individuals are safely captured and relocated.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 20:** The Regional Parks Department will conduct an educational training session for all construction personnel including a description of the Foothill yellow-legged frog, its habitat, and take minimization measures incorporated into the project.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 21:** The Regional Parks Department will schedule construction activities in the mixed riparian habitat outside of the over-wintering period (October 1 - mid-April) to avoid potential impacts to turtles that may be over-wintering in the leaf duff.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 22:** The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified herpetologist, will conduct a pre-construction survey of the upland habitats of the project site to assess their suitability for nesting. If the herpetologist observes evidence of nesting turtles, or otherwise determines the habitat suitable for nesting, an exclusion fence will be installed prior to any construction activities. The exclusion fence would be installed during the non-nesting season (mid-August – May) and would be positioned to prevent turtles from nesting in the upland habitat. The exclusion fence would be 18-inches high, constructed of silt fence, and buried six inches below the soil surface.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 23:** The Regional Parks Department will schedule construction activities in the mixed riparian habitat outside of the nesting period (January - August) to the extent feasible.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 24:** The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist or ornithologist, will conduct pre-construction surveys to ensure that no raptor nests will be disturbed during project construction, if construction cannot be scheduled between September and December. Protocols current at the time of the survey will be utilized. Current protocols now require that the pre-construction survey be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction activities during the early part of the breeding season, January through April, and no more that 30 days prior to the initiation of these activities during the late part of the breeding season, may through August. All trees will be inspected in and immediately adjacent to the impact areas for raptor nests. If an active nest is found in reasonably close proximity to the construction area, the ornithologist, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game, will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest.

#### **Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 25:** The Regional Parks Department will schedule construction activities in the mixed riparian habitat outside of the nesting period (March - August) to the extent feasible.

#### **Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*



**Mitigation Measure 26:** The Regional Parks Department, through a qualified biologist or ornithologist, will conduct pre-construction surveys to ensure that no nests for double-crested cormorant or great blue heron will be disturbed during project construction, if construction cannot be scheduled between September and March. Protocols current at the time of the survey will be utilized. Current protocols now require that the pre-construction survey be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction activities during the early part of the breeding season, January through April, and no more that 30 days prior to the initiation of these activities during the late part of the breeding season, may through August. All trees will be inspected in and immediately adjacent to the impact areas for raptor nests. If an active nest is found in reasonably close proximity to the construction area, the ornithologist, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game, will determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone to be established around the nest.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 27:** The Regional Parks Department will design, construct, and operate proposed improvements to avoid impacts to Mixed Riparian Forest, including riparian understory, to the maximum extent feasible.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented after construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 28:** The Regional Parks Department will replace the permanent loss of mixed riparian forest habitat on-site at a minimum ratio of 3:1 (mitigation:impact) to create a high quality willow riparian habitat. The Regional Parks Department will coordinate on-site mixed riparian forest mitigation with the Sonoma County Water Agency and the appropriate regulatory agencies, such as the California Department of Fish and Game. Enhancement of existing stands of “Mixed Riparian Forest” habitat or creation of new stands may be considered. The Regional Parks Department will prepare a Habitat Restoration Plan that would minimally include:

- a) Replacement of lost acreage of mixed riparian forest habitat.
- b) Location of on-site restoration opportunities. Potential opportunities may exist along the bank of the Russian River and along the shorelines of Lake Wilson and Lake Benoit.
- c) Analysis of the technical approach to a successful restoration including planting material (salvage from impacted trees if feasible), planting methods, use of soil amendments (if necessary), irrigation, and maintenance.
- d) Monitoring Plan including performance criteria. Minimally, the habitat replacement would be monitored for a period of 3 years and would be expected to achieve 75 percent success by Year 3.

### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented after construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 29:** The Regional Parks Department will design, construct, and operate proposed improvements to avoid impacts to wetlands vegetation associated with the Russian River, Lake Wilson, and Lake Benoist to the maximum extent feasible. . Best Management Practices specified in other mitigation measures, such as timing of construction activities (Mitigation Measure 43), sediment and erosion control (Mitigation Measures 7, 8, 9, 44, 45), construction methods (Mitigation Measure 31), and habitat restoration (Mitigation Measure 30) will be implemented.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented after construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 30:** The Regional Parks Department will replace the permanent loss of seasonal wetlands habitat on-site along the margins of Lake Wilson. Impacted seasonal wetlands will be replaced at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (mitigation:impact) and impacted freshwater marsh will be replaced at a ratio of 2:1 (mitigation:impact) The Regional Parks Department will coordinate on-site seasonal wetland and freshwater marsh replacement with the Sonoma County Water Agency and the appropriate regulatory agencies, such as the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Regional Parks Department will prepare a Wetland Restoration Plan that would minimally include:

- a) Replacement of lost acreage of seasonal wetland and freshwater marsh habitat
- b) Location of on-site restoration opportunities
- c) Analysis of the technical approach to create high quality wetlands including excavation elevations, location of hydrologic connections and soil amendments (if necessary), planting, and maintenance
- d) Monitoring Plan including performance criteria. Minimally, the constructed seasonal wetlands and freshwater marsh would be monitored for a period of 5 years and would be expected to achieve 80 percent cover by native plant species by Year 5.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented after construction activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 31:** The contractor will be required to comply with regulations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding construction activities that affect drainages.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
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**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
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**Mitigation Measure 32:** The contractor will be required to dispose of surplus soils at an acceptable disposal site. If any areas outside the project site are used for disposal or stockpiling of soil or other materials, the contractor will be required to demonstrate that the site has all the required permits, including, if applicable, a grading permit through the County of Sonoma and regulatory permits through the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The contractor will be required to provide evidence to the County that the site does not affect wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, or that the site has the appropriate permits from these agencies.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
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**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
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**Mitigation Measure 33:** The contractor will be required to dispose of surplus concrete rubble or pavement at an acceptable and legally permitted disposal site or taken to a permitted concrete and/or asphalt recycling facility.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
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**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>
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**Mitigation Measure 34:** Regional Parks staff will clearly identify trees that will require removal for development of the public parking facility on the construction drawings. The contractor will be required to clearly mark in the field the trees that will be removed for trail development.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

*Initials*

*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction activities.

*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 35:** Regional Parks staff will clearly identify the protected perimeter of the redwood and California bay laurel trees on the construction drawings. The protected perimeter is defined in Sonoma County Ordinance No. 4014 as the tree dripline.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

*Initials*

*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activities.

*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 36:** The contractor will place temporary protective fencing at the outermost edge of the dripline of the protected perimeter of each tree or group of trees to be protected. Protective fencing will be placed prior to commencement of construction and will remain in place until all construction-related activities are complete. The contractor will be required to avoid disturbance within the protected perimeter during construction of the proposed project. Construction-related activities including storing equipment, spoil materials, trash, parking vehicles or equipment may not take place within the protective fencing.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

*Initials*

*Date*

**Pre Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to project construction activities.

*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 37:** The contractor will be required to perform all tree trimming and branch removal in accordance with the International Society of Arborists Tree Pruning Guidelines, adopted in 1995. These standards require that (a) branches are cut cleanly, utilizing pruning shears, loppers, or a fine tooth saw that cuts on the pull stroke; (b) branches are cut just outside the branch bark ridge or at the callus shoulder, and at a point of junction with another branch to avoid leaving a limb section without live leaf support; (c) climbing spurs cannot be worn when performing work on any tree, and (d) trees will not be “headed.”

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 38:** Regional Parks staff may require a certified arborist to be on-site to direct pruning cuts on large limbs and to ensure that necessary pruning cuts are made to balance the weight of the tree.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 39:** The contractor will be required to report any damage to protected trees that occurs during, or as a result of project construction, to Regional parks staff. If a protected tree is damaged so that it cannot be preserved in a healthy state, the tree will be replaced in accordance with the Arboreal Value Chart included in Sonoma County Ordinance No. 4014.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

**Mitigation Measure 40:** If historical, archaeological, paleontological, or other types of cultural resources are discovered during project construction, construction will cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until a qualified archaeologist is consulted to determine the significance of the find, and has recommended appropriate measures to protect the resource.

### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 41:** If unique geologic features are discovered during project construction, construction will cease in the immediate vicinity of the find until a qualified geologist is consulted to determine the significance of the feature and has recommended appropriate measures to protect the resource.

### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 42:** In the event that human remains are unearthed during construction, the County Coroner will be notified to investigate the nature and circumstances of the discovery as required by State law. At the time of discovery, work in the immediate vicinity would cease until the Coroner permits work to proceed.

### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

## GEOLOGY & SOILS

**Mitigation Measure 43:** Regional Parks will schedule construction activities to the dry season, April 30 – October 15, whenever feasible.

### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 44:** The Contractor will be required to install erosion control measures in conjunction with construction plans. The erosion control plan will include temporary, construction-related erosion control measures. Temporary erosion control measures may include, but not be limited to, staking a jute mesh mat over a straw layer over disturbed areas and placing straw bales at all drain inlets in accordance with the Manual of Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control Measures (Association of Bay Area Governments, June 1981). The contractor will be required to hydro-seed all disturbed areas, including stockpile areas, by October 15 with a seed mix specified by the County.

### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented by reviewing and approving the erosion control plan submitted by the contractor.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*



**Mitigation Measure 45:** Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will inspect the project site following the first heavy rain, during the middle of the rainy season and at the end of the rainy season following construction to monitor improvements. During each visit, areas of significant erosion or erosion control device failure shall be noted and appropriate remedial actions taken.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented after construction by inspecting the project site following the first heavy rain and noting areas of significant erosion or erosion control device failure.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented after construction by inspecting the project site in the middle of the rainy season and noting areas of significant erosion or erosion control device failure.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented after construction by inspecting the project site at the end of the rainy season and noting areas of significant erosion or erosion control device failure.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

## HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

**Mitigation Measure 46:** The contractor will be required to prepare, submit, and implement a spill prevention plan for any construction of the proposed project. The contractor will be required to follow the provisions of Sections 5163 – 5167 of the General Industry Safety Orders (CCR Title 8) to protect the project site from being contaminated by the accidental release of any hazardous materials and/or waste. The contractor will be required to store all flammable liquids be in compliance with the Sonoma County Fire Code and section 7-1.01G of the Caltrans Standard Specification (or the functional equivalent) for the protection of surface waters. If hazardous materials are encountered during construction, the contractor will immediately halt construction activities will halt immediately and will implement actions required by the current California regulatory requirements. In the event of a spill of hazardous materials the Contractor will immediately call the emergency number 9-1-1 to report the spill, and will take appropriate actions to contain the spill to prevent further migration of the hazardous materials to stormwater drains or surface waters.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented by reviewing and approving the spill prevention plan submitted by the contractor.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 47:** The contractor will be required to dispose of petroleum-based products in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. If a spill should occur, the contractor will be required to immediately call 9-1-1 and report the spill to the appropriate authority. The contractor will be prohibited from conducting vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance on-site.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 48:** Sonoma County Regional Parks Department operations and maintenance crews will be required to dispose of petroleum-based products in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. If a spill should occur, Regional Parks staff will immediately call 9-1-1 and report the spill to the appropriate authority. Regional Parks staff will be prohibited from conducting vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance on-site.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during maintenance activities.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 49:** The contractor will be required to conduct inspections and maintenance, according to current regulations, of portable toilet facilities used during construction. The contractor will be required to conduct routine waste removal to ensure that effluent spills are avoided or minimized.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 50:** Regional Parks staff or agent will be required to conduct inspections and maintenance, according to current regulations, of portable toilet facilities used during project operation. Regional Parks staff or agent will ensure that routine waste removal is conducted so that effluent spills are avoided or minimized.

#### Implementation & Monitoring

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials*

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*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 51:** The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department Director may close the trail when there are high fire danger periods or other situations that could pose a threat to the health and safety of those using the trail.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials*

*Date*

## NOISE

**Mitigation Measure 52:** The contractor will be required to operate all internal combustion engines with mufflers that meet the requirements of the State Resources Code, and, where applicable, the Vehicle Code.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 53:** The contractor will be required restrict construction activities to the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, except for actions taken to prevent or resolve an emergency.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 54:** Sonoma County Regional Parks staff will be required to operate all internal combustion engines with mufflers that meet the requirements of the State Resources Code, and, where applicable, the Vehicle Code.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 55:** Sonoma County Regional Parks staff will be required restrict maintenance activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m, except for actions taken to prevent or resolve an emergency.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Post-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the Resource Management Plan.

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*Initials*

*Date*

## TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

**Mitigation Measure 56:** The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department staff will notify residents adjacent to the project area and local emergency services at least one week prior to commencement of construction

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Pre-Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented prior to construction activity.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 57:** The contractor will be required to place appropriate signage at the project entrance and on major intersections to notify motorists that traffic may be subject to delay, if lengthy delays are anticipated

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 58:** The contractor will be required to maintain access to all residences during construction.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction

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*Initials*

*Date*

**Mitigation Measure 59:** The contractor will be required to comply with the Caltrans “Manual of Traffic Safety Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones” regarding traffic safety guidelines during construction. The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department will require, in the project plans and specifications, that the contractor provide adequate signage and precautions for public safety during project construction.

**Implementation & Monitoring**

**Project Design:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction project.

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	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Date</i>

**Construction:** Regional Parks staff will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction

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